



# ROCK ISLAND – MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

[www.rimef.org](http://www.rimef.org)



*Enhancing  
academic  
opportunities  
for student success*

Summer 2016

## RIHS Seniors Awarded \$76,600 in Scholarships

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded \$76,600 in scholarships to 64 Rock Island High School Seniors at the Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night held on May 19, 2016. With the \$6,000 the Foundation awarded in January, a record \$76,600 was awarded this year to Rock Island High School graduates!

Thank you to our generous benefactors for providing these scholarship opportunities!



### 2016 Rock Island-Milan Scholarships

**Charles O. Austin, Jr. Leadership Scholarship** *Corinne McDowell* (\$1,000)  
**Carole S. Barkan Scholarship** *Deniza Ndikumana* (\$500)  
**Boeye Family Scholarship** *Ro Sung Tha* (\$1,000)  
**Class of 1961 Scholarship** *Travarai Antel, Austin Braud, Alyssa Butler, Austin DeSmet, Dominique Holland, Ndikumwenimana Isabella, Json Rangel, Haley Sigel, Sae Tun, Nicole Tyulpa* (\$500)  
**Class of 1965 Scholarship** *Chandler Steele* (\$500)  
**Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship** *Jacob Benson* (\$1,000)  
**Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship** *George Jakob Beierlein* (\$4,000)  
**Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship** *Kelsey Jackson* (\$2,000)  
**Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship** *Jason Griego* (\$1,500)  
**Rick Gilliland Scholarship** *Heaven Cunningham* (\$500)  
**Hass Family Scholarship** *Asia McMeans* (\$1,000)  
**The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship** *Stephanie Marceleno* (\$1,000)  
**Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship** *Kaylee Chiavario* (\$500)  
**Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship** *Elizabeth Moore* (\$3,000); *Samantha Johnson* (\$2,000); *John Ponsetto* (\$1,000)  
**Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship** *Iris Johnson* (\$4,000)  
**Donavin J. Keim Scholarship** *Casey Hupton* (\$1,000 Football); *Zach Gray* (\$1,000 Wrestling)  
**R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship** *Jeremy Smock* (\$500)  
**Marler Clark Science Scholarship** *Mackenzie Stone* (\$2,000)  
**Herb Niemann Scholarship** *Meredith Sanders* (\$1,000)  
**Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship** *Iris Johnson* (\$500)  
**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship** *Melissa Hagerty* (\$1,000); *Chris Lerch* (\$1,000)  
**Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship** *Sabrina Alt* (\$500 Arts); *Evan Wignall* (\$500 Education)  
**RIMEF Scholarship (Vocational School)** *Hope Hughes* (\$1,000)  
**RIMEF Scholarship (2 Year College/Jr. College)** *Thi Dang* (\$1,000)  
**RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College)** *Jake Aunan* (\$1,000)  
**Chet Schultz Scholarship** *Sam Kennedy* (\$1,000)  
**Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship** *Andres Bennet-Terronez* (\$1,000)  
**Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship** *Tathaynaw Laweh* (\$1,000)  
**Women's Computer Science, I.T. & Math Scholarship** *Samantha Hanson* (\$500)  
**DW Young Memorial Scholarship** *Adam Cady* (\$4,000)



## Top Students Recognized for Academic Achievement

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation honored over 100 Rock Island High School students for their excellence in academics at the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night on Thursday, May 19, 2016. At the ceremony held in the RIHS Auditorium, the “Top Ten” students of each class were recognized with certificates. Two top senior students in each of eight academic areas including Business, Career Education, English, Fine Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Languages were awarded monetary scholarships. First place winners received \$1,200 scholarships and the second place winners received \$1,000 scholarships. In addition, “Academic Excellence” scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded to four of the top ten seniors. These scholarships were all made possible through funds raised by the Academic Achievement Awards Committee and the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation.

### RIHS Departmental Award Winners:

Business: Stephanie Marceleno (\$1,200), Kwizera Sela (\$1,000)  
Career Education: Jeremy Smock (\$1,200), Aldair Matias-Garcia (\$1,000)  
English: Kate Brune (\$1,200), Sam Kennedy (\$1,000)  
Fine Arts: Iris Johnson (\$1,200), Chris Lerch (\$1,000)  
Mathematics: Elizabeth Moore (\$1,200), Jake Aunan (\$1,000)  
Science: Margaret Flowers (\$1,200), Maria Martinez-Hernandez (\$1,000)  
Social Studies: Adam Cady (\$1,200), Samantha Johnson (\$1,000)  
World Languages: Evan Wignall (\$1,200), Meredith Sanders (\$1,000)

### Academic Excellence Award Winners:

Matthew Benson      Betty Hall      Cade Kosche      Katelyn McCullough



## P.R.I.M.E. Grant Makes Beautiful Music



In August, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation awarded \$73,830 in P.R.I.M.E. Grants to our teachers, schools, and District. *SmartMusic*, one of the few District grants awarded, was implemented at elementary, middle, and high school levels with much success. *SmartMusic* is a music assessment software that allows teachers to program individual assignments for students to practice and complete. Assistant Director of Bands, Michael Tollenaar, stated the teachers “have found the *SmartMusic* and *Finale* 2014 software to be an essential path to student practice, self-analysis, and assessment growth.” The software allowed beginning band

students to progress at a much faster pace than an occasional one-on-one lesson would afford. Students were able to work independently on skills while teachers guided them through literature preparation. Mr. Tollenaar also reported that the number of students coming in to practice outside the school day tripled due to access of this technology.

The *SmartMusic* Grant was just one of **41 P.R.I.M.E. Grants** we awarded for the 2015-2016 school year. With your support of our P.R.I.M.E. Grant program, we can continue providing our teachers and schools the resources they need to create opportunities for student success!



## “Chip in” for the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation!

Want an *easy* way to increase your donation to the Foundation? “Chip in” for us through “Birdies for Charity” and we’ll receive up to a 10% bonus on your gift! Deadline to contribute through the Birdies program is August 12.

Contact us for a Birdies Pledge Form at (309) 793-5900 ext. 230 or, if you already have a form, our Birdies number is 1255. You can also make a one-time flat donation through the Birdies website at: [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com)

Donations will benefit all the great RIMEF programs or you can direct your donation to your favorite!



# incubator@rihs

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Final Pitch held on May 26, 2016 was an exciting evening showcasing Rock Island High School ingenuity! Five student teams from the inaugural INCubator: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class presented their new business ideas at the RIHS Auditorium to a large audience filled with investors, mentors, coaches, parents and the general public. The teams were scored by a panel of judges representing the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, Rock Island Rotary, the Quad City Chamber of Commerce and business experts. Scores were tabulated and awards were announced for Best Pitch, Best Business Potential, and Best Business Model. The evening concluded with a reception in the Rock Island High School Library.

Throughout the 2015-2016 school year, nine teams of Rocky junior and senior entrepreneurs developed their ideas into viable businesses with the help of mentors and coaches under the guidance of their classroom teacher, Mrs. Trish Matson. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, all teams participated in the First Pitch, a “shark tank” setting where they were questioned and evaluated by judges. Each was scored on presentation, business viability and the team’s ability to handle questions with the top five scoring teams moving on to the Final Pitch.

Congratulations to all the teams!



Superintendent Dr. Mike Oberhaus, INCubator lead instructor: Mrs. Trish Matson, RIHS Principal Mr. Tim Wernentin and the winning teams from the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual First Pitch: VisiCase, Mad Batter Cake Rounds, and RecallZ

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual First Pitch Award Winners:

### **Best Pitch – JIBSS: VisiCase**

Team Members – Jakob Beierlein, Isiah Morales, Brenden MacDonald, Spencer Zeglin, Shamar Robertson

### **Best Business Potential – Mad Batter Cake Rounds**

Team Members – Victoria Almanza, Chase Spicer, Shalynn Brodnax, Mariah Anderson, Dalton Bohlander

### **Best Business Model – RecallZ**

Team Members – Jeremy Smock, Seth Tobin, Tathaynaw Laweh

## Final Pitch Presenting Teams:

**Buddy Braids;** Team Members - Lauren Forslund, Allison Foster, Stephanie Marceleno, Marcus Miller

**Visor+;** Team Members – Arviana Miles, Alec Klapperich, Colton DeSmet

## 2015-2016 INCubator Teams:

**Delicious Delivery;** Team Members – Kaliyah Colvin, Jalise White, Dekari Nephew, Jami Oaks

**LJ2: Find and Dine;** Team Members – Lindsay Mumma, Jada Jones, Jacob Griffin

**Translate Your World;** Team Members – Allison Bradley, Agok Ayuen, Mirian Avila, Jacob Naab, Paul Bilori

**Whenever/Wherever;** Jay Richardson, Tyler Honts, CJ Neville, Melissa Lopez-Gomez



This unique course was sponsored by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation and made possible through the financial generosity of many businesses, grants, and RIMEF donors. Thank you to the Development Association of Rock Island (DARI) for its 2016 donation. Special thanks to the Rock Island Rotary and the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce for their financial and professional support. If you’d like to contribute or act as mentor for the INCubator 2016-2017 school year, please contact the Foundation and help our Rock Island-Milan students create “The Next Big Business Idea.”



The Major Saver program helps provide critical funding for our P.R.I.M.E. (**P**romoting **R**ock **I**sland **M**ilan **E**ducation) Grants. Through funds raised by the sales of the Major Saver discount cards, teachers, schools and the district are able to purchase much needed academic materials and offer programs, which they would otherwise not be able to afford. In 2015, the Major Saver campaign raised \$33,750; with added funds from donors and the Foundation, we awarded \$73,830 in P.R.I.M.E. Grants to our teachers and schools!

You can help! The next campaign is August 18-31. The \$15 card features offers from popular restaurants/establishments in Rock Island and surrounding area for savings up to \$160! Purchase a card from one of our students/schools or online at: [www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com).

**Help support our mission with the purchase of a Major Saver Card!**



Thank you for supporting our P.R.I.M.E. program and our students, teachers and schools!

The **Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation** was formed in 1986 to solicit and receive funds to support academic programs in the Rock Island-Milan School District. A board of directors, composed of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the foundation.

Monta Ponsetto, Executive Director

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**Contact us at: [RIMEF@risd41.org](mailto:RIMEF@risd41.org)**

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## Be a “Rock” of Our Foundation

Over the past year, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships and grants to RI students, teachers and schools. The RIMEF is able to fulfill its mission to “provide for expanded academic opportunities” only through the generosity of every individual, family, or business who sends a check, donates online, supports a program, buys a Major Saver card, or establishes a scholarship. Our “Rocks” make this all possible.

**Be a Rock** - Long-time supporter, Darrell Reynolds, explains why he gives to the Foundation:

“Not being the brightest crayon in the box, I was fortunate to work at the same place, doing basically the same thing for 47 years ~ I loved what I was doing. Over all those years I felt giving back was very, very important. I ran across two quotes that I’ve never forgotten and have tried to live by...first quote: A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. Author Unknown. Second quote: No one has ever become poor by giving. Author Unknown. The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is an excellent way to give back to the community and I would encourage everyone to take time and talk to the amazing people at the Foundation.”

**Be a Rock** – RIHS Class of 2014 Kirsten Tauke explains the importance of your donation:

“The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation scholarships (Academic Achievement Awards) provide needed support for students like myself. College is an expensive endeavor and every little bit of assistance helps toward the rising costs of tuition, books and fees. By making a donation, you are supporting a Rock Island student to realize their dreams and attend a college of their choice. I love attending the University of Illinois and I am very grateful for the assistance that was provided to me to allow me to follow my dreams.”

**Be a Rock** and support the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation so every student in the Rock Island-Milan School District has the opportunity to achieve academic success!



### Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarships Awarded

Going “Above and Beyond,” Rock Island High School Senior Elizabeth Moore was awarded the \$5,000 Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship for her sustainable garden project, *Sharing Sustainability*, completed at Denkmann Elementary School. Ndikumwenimana Isabella and Matthew Benson, each received a \$500 scholarship for the completion of their projects – *Prism of Possibility* (Isabella) and *Real Life Science Fair* (Benson.)

Thank you to the Thoms Family Foundation for providing these scholarships since 2003 and for encouraging the leadership and entrepreneurial spirit of Rock Island High School Students.