



ROCK ISLAND – MILAN  
**EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

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



*Enhancing Academic Opportunities  
for Student Success  
1986 - 2018*

**Spring/Summer 2018**

## **RIMEF Celebrates Academic Excellence**

Hundreds of students, families, scholarship benefactors, and friends filled the Rock Island High School Auditorium for the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Austin Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night*. The ceremony, held on May 16, recognized the "Top Ten" students of each class and presented 67 scholarships to the very deserving seniors of the Class of 2018. 109 students were honored at the awards ceremony, which included the Top Ten recognition, presentation of the Austin Academic Achievement Awards (AAAA), and awarding of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships. The awards night would not be possible without the extraordinary generosity of scholarship benefactors and the overwhelming support of the AAAA program from alumni, businesses, and our community. Thank you for helping us celebrate academic excellence at Rock Island High School.



**AUSTIN ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**  
ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### **Rock Island High School Department Awards**

	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Scholarship award:	\$1,500	\$1,200
<b>Business:</b>	<i>Me La</i>	<i>Ty Lewis</i>
<b>Career &amp; Technical Education:</b>	<i>Jameshia Walls</i>	<i>Jalil Gay</i>
<b>English:</b>	<i>Katherine Moore</i>	<i>Jada Veasey</i>
<b>Fine Arts:</b>	<i>Allison Nickel</i>	<i>Alex Gant</i>
<b>Mathematics:</b>	<i>Sydney Branson</i>	<i>Max Saintfort</i>
<b>Science:</b>	<i>Alexis Dillender</i>	<i>e'Dereka Newsone</i>
<b>Social Studies:</b>	<i>Kieran Benson</i>	<i>Mackenzie Munday</i>
<b>World Languages:</b>	<i>Sarah McCullough</i>	<i>Claire McKay</i>
<b>Academic Excellence Awards (\$1,200 scholarship):</b>		<i>Grace Potratz</i> <i>Luc Saintfort</i>

### **Achievement Awards Renamed**

On March 1, 2018, the Education Foundation was proud to announce a change in the name of the Academic Achievement Awards.

The Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce started the awards program in 1980 to recognize academic achievement in all Rock Island County high schools. When the Chamber made the decision to end the program, retired RI High School teacher and community leader Chuck Austin turned to the Education Foundation to ensure the awarding of academic excellence continued for Rock Island High School students. To honor Chuck, and his determination to insure the continuation of this important program, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has renamed it the:

***"Austin Academic Achievement Awards."***

**Rochelle Davis Memorial Scholarship:** 2018 was the first year for this newly established scholarship. Ms. Davis, a 1993 graduate of RIHS, tragically passed away in 2017. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who has participated in the music program at Rocky, has a minimum 3.0 GPA, and has demonstrated how they overcame an obstacle. After an inspiring speech at the awards ceremony, Ms. Davis's son, Tuarean Rogers, presented the inaugural scholarship to RIHS senior, Maya Saucedo. Thank you to the Davis Family and Sheleigh Martin for providing this scholarship opportunity.



# \$86,700 in Scholarships Awarded to Class of 2018

The generosity of scholarship benefactors and contributors enabled the awarding of \$79,700 to Rocky seniors at the *Austin Academic Achievement Awards and Scholarship Night* on May 16 at the RIHS Auditorium. With the \$7,000 presented in January for the Thoms Above and Beyond Scholarship, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation has awarded a record total of **\$86,700** to the Class of 2018. Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients and a huge thank you to all our donors who provide these scholarship opportunities to our deserving Rock Island High School seniors!



## Congratulations!

**Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship \$2,000:** *Ty Lewis*

**Carole S. Barkan Scholarship \$500:** *Sarah McCullough*

**Boeye Family Scholarship \$1,000:** *Nickolas Roessler*

**Class of 1961 Scholarship \$500 (each):** *Sophie Agbayani, Nyandwi Bonane, Logan Honts, Patient Jabbah, Morgan Janes, Lillian Johnson, Me La, Landen Love, Hei Moo, Emma Osborn, Van Par, Elizabeth Reed*

**Class of 1965 Scholarship \$500:** *Mutoni Patience*

**Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship \$1,000:** *Pryce T. Boeye*

**Rochelle Davis Memorial Scholarship \$1,000:** *Maya Saucedo*

**Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship \$4,000:** *Anthony Collins*

**Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship \$2,000:** *Nyibol Agot*

**Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship \$1,500:** *Galena Fessler*

**Rick Gilliland Scholarship \$500:** *Felista Kasimu*

**Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship \$2,000:** *Mi'Chail Sudberry*

**Hass Family Scholarship \$1,000:** *David Frederickson*

**The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship \$1,000:** *Jameshia Walls*

**Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship \$500:** *Lindey Abell*

**Tyler John Memorial Scholarship \$1,000:** *Mackenzie Melody*

**Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship \$3,000:** *Jada Veasey*, \$2,000: *Sydney Branson*, \$1,000: *Luke Aunan*

**Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship \$4,000:** *Max Saintfort*

**Donavin J. Keim Scholarship \$1,000 Football:** *Jalil Gay*, \$1,000 Wrestling: *Alex Gant*

**R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship \$500:** *Alexis Dillender*

**Marler Clark Science Scholarship \$2,000:** *Samantha Hernandez*

**Herb Niemann Scholarship \$1,200:** *Eric Friestad*

**Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship \$500:** *Hannah Wright*

**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship \$1,000:** *Rashawn Overton*

**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship \$1,000:** *EhDee Htoo*

**Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship \$500 Education:** *Karina Marceleno*, \$500 Music: *Alex Gant*

**RIMEF Scholarship (Vocational School) \$1,000:** *Khyri White*

**RIMEF Scholarship (2 Year College/Jr. College) \$1,000:** *Hannah House*

**RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College) \$1,000:** *Mykeisha Wells*

**Rock Island Township \$1,000:** *Helena Ndikumana*

**Chet Schultz Scholarship \$1,000:** *Alex Gant*

**Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship \$1,000:** *Brandt Samuelson*

**Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship \$5,000:** *Katherine Moore*, \$500 (each): *Nyibol Agot, Morgan Janes, Jada Veasey, Mykeisha Wells*

**Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship \$1,000:** *Mpawenayo Divera*

**DW Young Memorial Scholarship \$4,000:** *Katherine Moore*





The INCubator: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class program at Rock Island High School has completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> successful year! Under the guidance of instructor Mrs. Trish Matson and the assistance of community mentors and coaches, 10 student teams developed their concepts into viable businesses over the 2017-2018 school year. All teams participated in the ACADEMIC FIRST PITCH on May 17 showcasing their businesses in a “shark tank” presentation before a panel of judges from the business community, Rock Island Rotary, and the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. 5 teams were selected to move on to the FINAL PITCH NIGHT on May 24, 2017 when the teams would be judged once more by the “sharks.”

The stakes were higher this year with an exciting addition to this year’s Final Pitch Awards: a \$5,000 start-up prize for the team that the judges determined would be the best business investment. The prize money can only be used for actual costs incurred by the winning team to pursue their business. The Education Foundation’s check was funded by entrepreneur and investor, Mr. Mark Thies and his wife, Elizabeth. Congratulations to all the teams for your hard work and innovation throughout the year!

## 2018 Final Pitch Awards:

### *Best Pitch, Best Business Potential, Best Business Model –*

**Concession Crew:** Owen Beltran, Anthony Collins, Michael Elston, Clayton Price and Bryce Trask  
Mentor: Tracey White

### Final Pitch Presenting Teams:

**150 Dream Team - The Clip:** Miles Crawford, Cruz English, Patience Mutoni and Hannah Wright  
Mentor: Randy Jacobs, TAG

**GoReaders:** Ethan Braun, Dyashia Colvin, Ty Lewis, Blaker Pfaff and Myianna Walls  
Mentor: Curtis Crosier, Intuitive CFO

**Pit Crew:** Alex Hendricks, Courtney Linsday, Quinn Neville, Justin Randle and Daniel Wilson  
Mentor: James Greenwood, Patricia Matson

**TRAX:** James Forslund, Maddie Inman, Scott Kerno, Gracie Roady and Morrio Rogers  
Mentor: Eric Spriet, Quad City Bank and Trust

**Concession Crew** sweeps the awards and is the recipient of the first business investment cash prize - \$5,000!



## Reynolds Returning Rocks

The Education Foundation, through the generous funding of Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds, has initiated a new program within the Rock Island-Milan School District. “Reynolds Returning Rocks” are RIHS alums that have gone on to be successful in their chosen careers. These Rocks will share how their experiences in the school district provided them the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in life through the AVID program, during “Rock Time”, and/or classrooms throughout the district. The goal is for RIMSD students to make real life connections with people that have walked the same halls.

The inaugural year of this program “returned” 2005 Rocky graduate Ryan Marzolph. Ryan graduated in the top ten of his senior class and was an *(Austin) Academic Achievement Award* winner in English. He went on to study New Media and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After college, he started as a designer and visual effects artist in Champaign, IL where he worked on his first feature films among other commercial projects. In 2014, Ryan relocated to Los Angeles. After several months of freelancing in the film industry, he accepted a full time position with his biggest commercial client, Snapchat. Over the past several years, Ryan has developed original content, ad campaigns, new product concepts and helped take Snap Inc. through its IPO.

In May, Ryan was the guest speaker at the new Rocky Student Recognition Ceremonies where he addressed the students in two separate sessions. He shared his motivational journey from Rock Island to LA and assisted awarding students from each class. The students were especially excited when he introduced the new “Geofilter” within Sanpchat that he’d just created for Rocky. During his time at the high school, Ryan met with the Entrepreneurship teams. The students described their projects and Ryan offered some advice based upon his experience helping Snap Inc. grow from a young company with one office to a publicly-traded firm with an international presence. It was a great start to this new program and we look forward to hosting more successful Reynolds Returning Rocks to inspire students for years to come.



## “Score” for Education

**QCSportsNet & Chris Elsberg**  
State Farm Insurance donated \$1,095 through their “Score” for Education program to the Foundation! We receive \$1 for every point scored by Rocky’s football team and \$3 for every 3-point play scored by the featured boys or girls basketball team. Support our Rocks and support our mission through:

**QCSportsNet.com**

## RIHS Class Reunions 2018

Class of '63 – October 12/13  
Class of '68 – August 24/25  
Class of '73 – August 24/25  
Class of '78 – August 3/4  
Class of '83 – Sept. 14-16  
Class of '98 – June 23

For more information about these reunions, please contact:

Rick Miers – Alumni Contact  
[rick.miers69@gmail.com](mailto:rick.miers69@gmail.com)

or

Rock Island Alumni on Facebook

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, comprised of volunteer professional, business, and community leaders, governs the operations of the foundation.

**OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

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SHELLEE SHOWALTER, Treasurer  
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## Support Our Students, Teachers, & Schools through the RIMEF!



### “Chip in” for the Foundation!

The John Deere Classic’s Birdies for Charity program is a great way to maximize your donation to the Foundation! Through Birdies, 100% of your donation goes to the Foundation and Birdies will match a minimum of 5% - up to 10% for each pledge.

This year, the Foundation is funding classroom technologies and supplies for teachers and schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District through Birdies. If you already donate to the Foundation through Birdies, rest assured that we will direct your funds as you have designated. If you would prefer your donation directed to another program or fund, just call or email and let us know!

It’s easy to donate! Go online to [www.BirdiesforCharity.com](http://www.BirdiesforCharity.com) and click on “Donate Now–Donate to your Favorite Charity”. The Foundation Birdies number is 1255. Contact us for more information or a Birdies mail-in form. Donation deadline is July 13, 2018.

Through Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds’ generous sponsorship, the Foundation will be a featured *Spotlight Charity* for the 2018 John Deere Classic! The sponsorship gives the Foundation the opportunity to highlight our mission in front of tens of thousands of golf fans, donors, and engaged community members this July. If you attend the Classic, look for us!



**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!**  
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### **Purchase a Major Saver Card Support and Save!**

Major Saver helps provide critical funding for our PRIME (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) 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. The next campaign runs August 9 - 22. The \$15 card features offers from popular restaurants/establishments in Rock Island and surrounding areas. You can purchase a card from one of our students or online at: [www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com).