

## A Night for Academic Excellence and Awards

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation honored and awarded 114 Rock Island High School students at the 39<sup>th</sup> *Austin Academic Achievement Awards & Scholarship Night* on Thursday, May 16. Over 500 attendees filled the RIHS Auditorium to celebrate the academic accomplishments of the “Top Ten” students of each class and hear the presentation of 64 scholarship awards to the very deserving seniors of the Class of 2019. The \$83,200 in scholarships awarded included the 16 Austin Academic Achievement Awards, 2 Academic Achievement Awards, and 46 Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships. This celebration of academic excellence at Rock Island High School is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of scholarship benefactors and the overwhelming support of the AAAA program from alumni, businesses, and our community. We are grateful for their help in making this a wonderful evening for these students, their families, and the Education Foundation.

## New Scholarships Presented in 2019

### Grant W. and Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship

To honor Grant and Virginia Brissman who provided a sizable legacy gift to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, the RIMEF established the Grant W. and Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship. Grant and Virginia Brissman adopted the Village of Milan as their home – it’s where they built their business and it was the village they loved and supported. Grant Brissman was a graduate of Rock Island High School and so this scholarship awards a deserving Rocky senior who also calls the Village of Milan home. Preference is given to a student who will be studying a trade such as welding, automotive, etc. or will be pursuing a career as a CNA or a nurse. Preference is also given to students with a GPA of 2.5 – 3. The scholarship award is \$4,000



### Class of 1963 “First in the Family” Scholarship

The Class of 1963 wanted to give back to their alma mater and established the Class of 1963 “First in the Family” Scholarship to award those students who are the first in their families to pursue any type of post-secondary education whether it be a 4-year college/university, junior college, trade school, etc. The senior must have also demonstrated a history of continued academic improvement while attending Rock Island High School. The scholarship award is \$1,000.

### PRIME 2 Supports More Grants!



In January, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation gave \$19,873 in PRIME Grants to our teachers and schools. These additional funds awarded via the PRIME Grant program were made possible by the generosity of donors giving through our Birdies for Charity appeal and donations from our community partners. Added to the \$92,531 in PRIME Grants given at the beginning of the school year, the RIMEF awarded a total of **\$112,394** for innovative new programs, technologies, and classroom supplies to enhance education in the 2018-2019 school year.

### RIHS Class Reunions

Class of '68 – August 24/25  
Class of '74 – September 28  
Class of '79 – September 21

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



**RIMEF  
Board President  
Pryce T. Boeye**

I am deeply honored to become the next President of the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation. As the son of a former teacher in the district and a founding board member of the foundation, a 1986 graduate of the high school, husband of a 1988 graduate and current school board member, and parent of a 2018 graduate and a soon to be Sophomore, I understand the importance of giving back to the district so today's students have even better opportunities than those who came before them. To that end, I hope you join me in contributing to our many great causes, including the General Fund, PRIME Grants, Austin Academic Achievement Awards, Scholarships, Honorariums / Memorials, and the Legacy / Planned Giving Program. It is my hope that the foundation is not only known for giving out an impressive amount of scholarships, but supporting educational innovation throughout the district so our students have a competitive advantage when taking on the many challenges they will encounter after graduating from high school.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Monta Ponsetto (our Executive Director) and Jerry Jones (Past President) for their leadership over the last 2 years, and look forward to working with Monta and our current Board of Directors who are one of the most dedicated boards I've ever been a part of.

# incubatoredu@rihs

The 2018/2019 INCubator: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class proved to be another successful year with 5 outstanding teams taking the RIHS Auditorium stage to present at the "Final Pitch" on May 15. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the program, instructor Mrs. Trish Matson led 50 students through the entrepreneurship process with the assistance of community mentors and coaches. 10 teams developed their concepts into viable businesses over the school year and participated in the ACADEMIC FIRST PITCH on May 8 showcasing their businesses in the "shark tank" presentation before a panel of judges from the business community, Rock Island Rotary, and the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. The final 5 teams were then selected to move on to the FINAL PITCH NIGHT when the teams were judged and winners selected once more by the "sharks."

For the 2nd year, the Education Foundation awarded a \$5,000 prize to the team receiving the highest score from the judges. Pick Pockets will receive the prize money to pursue their business or as a scholarship award. The Education Foundation's check was funded by entrepreneur and investor Mark Thies and his wife Eilzabeth. Congratulations to all the team for their hard work and innovation throughout the year!

## 2019 Final Pitch Awards:

**Best Pitch: IMPAACT** – Teresa Govain-Pulliam, Shania Jones, Mutumwinka Rose and Jyvason Nduwimana

**Best Business Potential: Infusion Block** – Nishemezwe Diane, Michael Ndabunganie and Braylon Walton-Johnson

**Best Business Model (tie): Helping Hand** - Hope Carey, Jyasmee Jones, and Henry Thompson

**Pick Pockets** – Annette Eckhardt, Nu Nu Khin, Alyssa Long, and Emily Skelton

## Final Pitch Presenting Team:

**FlavoStraw** – Logan Curry, Carson James, Juliana Kruzic, Jesse Linch, and Sam Serrano



## Cutlers are 2019 "Reynolds Returning Rocks"

For the second year, the RIMEF was excited to present the "Reynolds Returning Rock" program to benefit students of the Rock Island-Milan School District. In May, Ken and Linda Cutler (Class of 1965) shared their experiences as successful grads of Rock Island High School. On May 9, the Cutlers attended classes speaking with students in social studies/government classes and meeting with aspiring lawyers. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Cutlers addressed the entire student body in assemblies and had lunch with the Debate Team. Meeting/advising the teams of the Entrepreneurship Class – was also part of their RIHS schedule. A reception for the Cutlers was held on the 9th with RIMEF board members, honorary board members, and members of the Class of 1965 attending.

Ken Cutler is a Partner with the law firm Dorsey & Whitney in their Corporate Department representing emerging technology companies. Linda Cutler retired in 2013 after 39 years with Cargill Corp. working internationally as their Deputy General Counsel. Both Ken and Linda attended and received their Juris Doctorates from the University of Texas. Ken obtained his BA and MA from the University of Chicago and Linda obtained her BA at Augustana College receiving her MA from the University of Chicago.

The "Reynolds Returning Rock" program is an initiative of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation enabled with an endowment set up by Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds. The program brings successful Rock Island High School graduates back to educate, inform, and inspire current Rocky students.



**QCSportsNet & Chris Elsberg**  
State Farm Insurance donated \$1,000 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**

*Thank you  
to Nancy and Jerry Thomas for  
their General Fund donation! We  
apologize for the omission of  
their contribution from the  
2018 Annual Report.*



# \$83,200 Awarded at AAAA & Scholarship Night

## Austin Academic Achievement Awards – RIHS Departmental

	<b>First Place</b>	<b>Second Place</b>
Scholarship award:	\$1,500	\$1,200
<b>Business:</b>	<i>Spencer Hasselroth</i>	<i>Bryce Trask</i>
<b>Career &amp; Technical Education:</b>	<i>Leslie Perez</i>	<i>Christina Fisher</i>
<b>English:</b>	<i>Aislinn Geedey</i>	<i>Anastasia Jacobs</i>
<b>Fine Arts:</b>	<i>Htoo Htoo</i>	<i>Hannah Knuth</i>
<b>Mathematics:</b>	<i>Dayton Ellis</i>	<i>Corina Castaneda</i>
<b>Science:</b>	<i>Paige Porter</i>	<i>Kaylyn Lemmon</i>
<b>Social Studies:</b>	<i>Grant Florence</i>	<i>Shannon Kenney</i>
<b>World Languages:</b>	<i>Emily Jansen</i>	<i>Caroline Cady</i>
<b>Academic Excellence Awards (\$1,200 scholarship):</b>		<i>Wang Kalomba</i> <i>Margaret Lelonek</i>



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



## ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship** \$2,000: *Bryce Trask*  
**Carole S. Barkan Scholarship** \$500: *Ariana Gabriel*  
**Boeye Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Emily Laughlin*  
**Grant W. & Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship** \$4,000: *Reagan Scheper*  
**Class of 1961 Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): *Mikayla DePover, Kayla Garcia, Mercedes Hantz, Kristina Mathews, Ashley Peters, Ian Purvis*  
**Class of 1963 "First in the Family" Scholarship** \$1,000: *Cylus Crayne*  
**Class of 1965 Scholarship** \$500: *Monica Diaz*  
**Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship** \$1,000: *Spencer Hasselroth*  
**Rochelle Davis Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000: *Lah Htoo*  
**Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship** \$4,000: *Andrew Polito*  
**Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship** \$2,000: *Kya Burkhardt*  
**Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship** \$1,500: *Joseph Matheis*  
**Rick Gilliland Scholarship** \$500: *Logan Curry*  
**Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship** \$2,000: *Lauryn Stegall*  
**Hass Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Scott Kerno*  
**The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship** \$1,000: *Amy Haskill*  
**Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship** \$500: *Grant Florence*  
**Tyler John Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000: *Moises Salinas*  
**Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship** \$3,000: *Anastasia Jacobs*, \$2,000: *Corina Castaneda*, \$1,000: *Cobie Conger*  
**Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship** \$4,000: *Caroline Cady*  
**Donavin J. Keim Scholarship** \$1,000 Football: *Bryce Trask*, \$1,000 Wrestling: *Michael Myers*  
**R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship** \$500: *Shannon Kenney*  
**Marler Clark Science Scholarship** \$2,000: *Aislinn Geedey*  
**Herb Niemann Scholarship** \$1,200: *Hannah Knuth*  
**Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship** \$500: *Cylus Crayne*  
**Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): *Rylee Bowling, MaKayla Chandler*  
**Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship** \$500 Education: *Catelyn Pohl*, \$500 Music: *Carlee Camlin*  
**RIMEF Scholarship (Vocational School)** \$1,000: *Elijah Andrews*  
**RIMEF Scholarship (2 Year College/Jr. College)** \$1,000: *Austin Ford*  
**RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College)** \$1,000: *Kayla Canning*  
**Chet Schultz Scholarship** \$1,000: *Amber Haskill*  
**Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): Baseball: *Bryce Trask*, Softball: *Ashley Peters*  
**Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship** \$1,000: *MarCeisha Jackson*  
**Women's IT, Computer, and Math Scholarship** \$500: *Leslie Perez*  
**DW Young Memorial Scholarship** \$4,000: *Paige Porter*



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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# ROCK ISLAND – MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation  
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## Great Ways to Support!

### “Chip in” for the Foundation!

Make your donation to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation through the John Deere Classic's Birdies for Charity! Through Birdies, 100% of your donation goes to the Foundation and

Birdies will match your pledge with a minimum of 5% up to 10% bonus!

The Foundation will use this year's Birdies for Charity funds to provide a “welcome kit” of classroom supplies for new teachers in the Rock Island-Milan School District. 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 12, 2019.



### Support & Save with Major Saver!

Sales of the Major Saver Card help provide critical funding for our PRIME (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) Grants. The 2019 campaign runs September 11-25. The \$15 card features offers from popular restaurants/establishments in Rock Island/Quad City area or go online at [www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com) and find a card for your area. Any card can still support our schools! Purchase a card from one of our students or online at: [www.MajorSaver.com](http://www.MajorSaver.com).



Dr. Mike Oberhaus was recognized for his many valued years of service at the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Board of Directors May meeting. Dr. Oberhaus provided strong leadership for the RIMEF since 1986 as school district representative to the board, from 2010-2019 as board member & officer and as a tireless working member on multiple committees. His commitment made a difference for the students, teachers & schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District. We are grateful for his devotion to our mission and will miss his insightful presence on our board. Thank you Mike!