



ROCK ISLAND-MILAN

EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Enhancing Academic Opportunities for Student Success
1986 - 2021

www.rimef.org



Spring/Summer 2021

RIMEF Celebrates Academic Excellence!

Rock Island High School Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen were honored and awarded for academic excellence through this year's 41st Annual *Austin Academic Achievement Awards and RIMEF Scholarships*. 95 RIHS students were given Top Ten recognition and 43 from the Class of 2021 received \$93,300 in Austin Academic Achievement Awards and RIMEF Scholarships. Without the generosity of 237 AAAA contributors and 37 scholarship benefactors, these awards to our deserving RIHS seniors would not have been possible. The event recognizing 128 RIHS students for their academic accomplishments was livestreamed on Facebook and is available for viewing online. This tradition of honoring and rewarding academic excellence within Rock Island High School and our district will continue thanks to the strong support of all those who believe in our schools. You can watch the video on YouTube.com - search: **2021 RIMEF AAAA & Scholarships**

~~~ 5 New Scholarships Aid Rocky Graduates ~~~



Heart of a "Rock" Scholarship

Megan Wilson and Triona Roberts, 2010 RIHS graduates, established this scholarship in honor and memory of their mothers (Terri Wilson and Yolanda Roberts) who both fought a battle with breast cancer. The intention is to support seniors who have undergone the unforeseen challenges that happen when parents are fighting illnesses. The award is given to one special student with a heart of a "rock" who has/had a parent with an illness of any kind. The scholarship was established with donations from Ms. Wilson and Ms. Roberts along with donations from friends, family, and community members. Award: \$1,000

Mollie Montgomery Scholarship

Mollie Montgomery was an active community member who left a large bequest to the Education Foundation in 2008. In her honor, the RIMEF has initiated the Mollie Montgomery Scholarship. This award benefits a student pursuing any field of medicine - Nursing, Pre-Med, CNA, Medical Research, etc. Criteria also includes providing a history of service to community, non-profit, or school organizations as a regular volunteer. Award: \$2,000.



Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship

Miles Rich established this scholarship in honor of his long-established Rock Island family. This 4-year scholarship is awarded to a student who will major in Business Administration at a public college or university. The recipient must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better each year. Award: \$4,000 – paid as \$1,000 per year for 4 years.



Rock Island Rotary "Service Above Self" Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Rock Island established this scholarship to encourage "Service Above Self," the principal motto of Rotary International. Student must demonstrate how they aid family, friends, colleagues, and/or the community. Using "Service Above Self" as a theme, student must submit an essay demonstrating how they incorporate Rotary's 4-Way Test into their daily lives: 1. Is it the Truth? 2. Is it fair to all concerned? 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships? 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned? A written recommendation must come from a teacher or staff person who can speak to the student's devotion to helping others. Preference is given to a student with a GPA of 2.5 or above. Award: \$1,000.

Rosemary Woodward Scholarship

Rosemary Woodward devoted her life to ensuring the health and well-being of children and adults through her career as a nurse and volunteer work. Funded by a grant from her endowment with the RI Community Foundation, the RIMEF established this scholarship to honor her career both as a nurse and her many years of volunteering. Applicants may have taken CNA or biology/health courses while in high school, volunteered at nursing homes/hospitals, or have a family member with chronic health issues but their intended major, degree, certificate must be within the field of nursing or as a CNA. Award: \$1,000.





RIMEF
Board President
Cindy Lukasik

It is my honor to serve as the 2021-2022 president of the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation. For thirty-five years the foundation has been "Enhancing Educational Opportunities for Student Success". Only through the generous support of our donors are we able to contribute to the future of our schools and the education of our children. Donations to our General Fund, PRIME grants, Austin Academic Achievement Awards, Scholarships, Memorial gifts, Legacy/Planned Giving Program and Birdies for Charity provide funds to assist our students and teachers to reach beyond their potential and prepare for the future.

As a member of a family with twelve Rock Island High School graduates, I have witnessed the value of an outstanding education and the importance of public education. Education remains a key to the success of our children and the future of our community. The critical lessons we learned in the classrooms and hallways of the Rock Island Milan schools are present in our daily lives as adults. Preparing our students for the many challenges of the future with a "rock solid" foundation and an understanding of community is a mission embraced by our devoted and very enthusiastic board of directors.

I would like to thank outgoing president and board member John Phillips for his nine years of dedicated service. His leadership and insights were invaluable particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and fourteen months of Zoom meetings. In addition, my heartfelt thank you also to Monta Ponsetto, our tireless Executive Director, whose dedication and commitment to the Foundation are unsurpassed.

Please join me and my family in supporting the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation and helping to ensure a future filled with possibilities and hope for generations to come.

The **Final Pitch Night** for the INCubator.edu: Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class was held on Wednesday, May 12 in the RIHS Auditorium. Five outstanding teams "pitched" their business ideas to classmates and a select panel of judges from the Quad Cities business community. Very little separated the scores of the top three presenting teams and thanks to the generosity of donors Mark & Elizabeth Thies, the judges and the RIMEF were able to give a cash prize to each. A total of \$10,000 was awarded: \$2,500 each to **Best Pitch**, **Boardable** and **Best Business Potential**, **Pooh Pods** and the top prize of \$5,000 to the **Best Business Model**, **The Cobblers**.

Students from this sixth year of the INCubator.edu class spent much of their classwork time learning virtually. Mrs. Patricia Matson led the students through online/remote and some live classroom instruction as they formed teams and developed their concepts into viable businesses. For the **Academic First Pitches** on May 3rd and 6th, a record 14 teams showcased their businesses with some teams giving live presentations and some presenting through Google Meets. Judges who viewed the Academic Pitches both live and remotely scored and selected the final 5 teams to move on to the **Final Pitch**.

The RIMEF would like to thank all of the judges who gave their time and shared their business expertise with the INCubator.edu students. We'd also like to thank Rock Island Rotary for its continued support of the program and Mr. & Mrs. Thies for providing the award money which can be used as start-up funds or taken as scholarships. With the support of our donors, the RIMEF pays the ongoing costs of the INCubator.edu curriculum and training as well as funding seed-money to develop the teams' websites, prototypes, etc. during the school year.

Congratulations to all the INCubator.edu teams for your hard work and innovation!

2021 Final Pitch Awards:

Best Pitch: Boardable – Payton Cassidy

Best Business Potential: Pooh Pods – Calvin Banks, Jacob Voight

Best Business Model: The Cobblers – Jason Arroyo-Vasquez, Zach Beckman, Ravon Johnson-Taylor, Samuel Steffen, James Webb

Additional Final Pitch Presenting Teams:

Elite Grip – McCree DeVoss, Xander George

Luminous Learning – Isabella Almanza



Make a Lasting Impact – Invest in Education

You can make a lasting impact in the life of a child by investing in their education. When you donate to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, you are making an investment in the education of thousands of children throughout our district. Your dollars make a difference when purchasing resources to increase literacy, initiate a STEAM program, fund an innovative approach to learning, or provide the encouragement to further education through a scholarship. Your investment helps us provide "enhanced academic opportunities" for the success of Rock Island-Milan students now and for years to come.

The RIMEF has many options to support our students, teachers, and schools. You may donate to one of our established programs, our general fund, or grow our endowment. Any gift of any size makes a difference. To include the RIMEF in your estate or long-range planning, please consult your tax, legal, or financial advisor to determine what may be the best option for you:

Endowed Gift
Memorial & Tribute

Living Trust
IRA Rollover & RMD

Will & Bequest
Life Insurance Policy

"There is no greater return than an investment in a child's education."



"Score" for Education

QCSportsNet & Chris Elsberg State Farm Insurance continue to support the RIMEF and the District through their "Score" for Education program. 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. Thank you!

QCSportsNet.com

RIHS Seniors Receive \$93,900 in Scholarships!

Austin Academic Achievement Awards - Departmental

Scholarship award:	First Place	Second Place
	\$1,500	\$1,200
Business:	<i>Colton Sigel</i>	<i>Payton Cassidy</i>
Career & Technical Education:	<i>Blake Zahner</i>	<i>Ethan Hinds</i>
English:	<i>Say Say</i>	<i>Lily Paw</i>
Fine Arts:	<i>Riley Ellis</i>	<i>Calvin Banks</i>
Mathematics:	<i>Noah Rettig</i>	<i>Tiffany O'Leary</i>
Science:	<i>Renee Farmer</i>	<i>Donovan Garro</i>
Social Studies:	<i>Macy O'Mary</i>	<i>Bujeni Itangishatse</i>
World Languages:	<i>Logan Wyers</i>	<i>JaRaya Carr</i>

View our "virtual" awards ceremony!

Go to YouTube.com and search:

2021 RIMEF AAAA & Scholarships



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

ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship \$2,000: *Calvin Banks*

Carole S. Barkan Scholarship \$500: *Kaylea Roessler*

Boeye Family Scholarship \$1,000: *Colton Sigel*

Grant W. and Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship \$4,000: *Maura Chandler*

Class of 1961 Scholarship \$1,250 (each): *Jaylen Brozovich, Maura Chandler, Ravon Johnson-Taylor, Chloe Killian, Abbigale Rasmussen, Colton Sigel, Erin Teggatz, Ashley Testa*

Class of 1963 "First in the Family" Scholarship \$1,000: *Ravon Johnson-Taylor*

Class of 1965 Scholarship \$500: *Mariyon Rogers*

Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship \$1,000: *Trevor Beckman*

Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship \$4,000: *Trevor Beckman*

Barbara Fackel AVID Scholarship \$1,000: *Kristina Smith*

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

Rick Gilliland Scholarship \$500: *Abbigale Rasmussen*

Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship \$2,000: *Ravon Johnson-Taylor*

Hass Family Scholarship \$1,000: *Charly Heber-Spates*

Heart of a "Rock" Scholarship \$1,000: *Bell New*

The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship \$1,000: *Jonathan Knuth*

Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship \$500: *Riley Ellis*

Tyler John Memorial Scholarship \$1,000: *Lainey Benson*

Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship \$3,000: *Say Say*; \$2,000: *JaRaya Carr*, \$1,000: *Blake Zahner*

Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship \$4,000: *Donovan Garro*

Donavin J. Keim Scholarship \$500 Football: *Jaylen Brozovich*; Wrestling: *Kyle Gant*

R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship \$500: *Evan Elliott*

Marler Clark Science Scholarship \$2,000: *Allyson Smithson*

Mollie Montgomery Scholarship \$2,000: *Sher Lei*

Herb Niemann Scholarship \$1,200: *Eleanor Blew*

Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship \$500: *Alisia Sarver*

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship \$1,000: *Andrea Rangel*

Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship \$1,000: *Gabriel Nightingale*

Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship \$4,000: *Kristina Smith*

Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship \$500 Education: *Chloe Killian*; \$500 Music: *Emma Widick*

RIMEF Scholarship (Vocational) \$1,000: *Payton Cassidy*

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

RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College) \$1,000: *Noah Rettig*

Rock Island Rotary "Service Above Self" Scholarship \$1,000: *Cassidy DeMeyer*

Rock Island Township Scholarship \$1,000: *Emma Widick*

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

Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship \$500 Baseball: *Ravon Johnson-Taylor*; \$500 Softball: *Kaylea Roessler*

Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship \$1,000: *Bell New*

Women's Computer Science, IT, and Math Scholarship \$500: *Ashley Testa*

Rosemary Woodward Scholarship \$500: *Emily Pearson*

DW Young Memorial Scholarship \$4,000: *Rachel Loomis*

Class of 2021



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
2101 6th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201
www.rimef.org (309) 581-2154

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Chipping in for Charity Time!

Setting up a new 3rd grade classroom at Earl Hanson or preparing a chemistry lab at Rocky is expensive. The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation salutes teachers new to the district with our "Welcome to the RIMSD41 Kit", a portion of which is designed to assist educators with these often-out-of-pocket costs. This year's Birdies for Charity appeal asks for your help in welcoming our new teachers and staff and recognizing their commitment to the success of our students.

When you donate to the RIMEF through Birdies, we receive 100% of your donation - PLUS we will receive a guaranteed 5% and up to 10% for your gift! If you make your annual gift through Birdies or prefer to direct your donation to another program, we will honor your intent. All other donations will be directed to new teacher assistance. All donations by check or online must be received by the Birdies for Charity office by **July 9, 2021**. Please consider this date if sending your Birdies donation to the RIMEF office.

Thanks to Doug Hultquist and Chris Elsberg, State Farm Insurance the RIMEF will be a featured *Spotlight Charity* at the John Deere Classic! Being a *Spotlight Charity* gives the RIMEF a great opportunity to share our mission of enhancing academics in the Rock Island-Milan School District with tens of thousands of golf fans, donors, and engaged community members this July!

Donate online or get more information at: www.birdiesforcharity.com

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Birdies number is – **1255**

Thank You to donors Kay and Stan Coin and American Bank & Trust for their generous gifts to the Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship in 2020!



Thank You
John Phillips



John Phillips was recognized at the May Board of Directors meeting for his nine years of dedicated service to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. John served on multiple committees during his tenure on our board including: Events, Fundraising, Finance, Executive, & Board Development – even volunteering to assist on our Allocations Committee when help was needed. As 2020-21 Board President, John expertly led the RIMEF through a challenging year - for the schools, teachers, and students of the RIMSD41. We are grateful for John's outstanding leadership and commitment to our mission.

John, on behalf of all those we serve,
Thank you!