



# ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

Enhancing Academic Opportunities  
for Student Success  
1986 - 2020

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



Spring/Summer 2020

## AAAA & Scholarships

Rock Island High School underclassmen and the RIHS Class of 2020 could count on the generosity of 162 contributors and benefactors of 35 scholarships for the 40<sup>th</sup> presentation of the Austin Academic Achievement Awards and Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships. Although the ceremony could not be held this year, students, family, and friends could view a “virtual” awards presentation posted at the scheduled time for the event. The video recognizes 113 RIHS students for their academic accomplishments and is still available for viewing online. Scholarships totaling \$89,800 have been awarded including 16 Austin Academic Achievement Awards, 1 Academic Excellence Award, and 51 Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships. The 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:

*2020 RIMEF AAAA & Scholarship Presentation*

## Reynolds Returning Rock, “Rocks!”

The Education Foundation welcomed the return of 2010 RIHS graduate Dr. Jerraco Johnson as the 2019-2020 **Reynolds Returning Rock**. On December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, the “Rock Legend” taught, met/advised students, and addressed the student body in separate assemblies. A reception for Dr. Johnson was held and the 2010 recipient of a Thoms Family Above & Beyond Scholarship and Hass Family Scholarship was able to spend time with benefactors Mike Thoms and Rose Ann & Jim Hass.



Dr. Jerraco Johnson is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. After graduating from Rocky in 2010, he obtained his BA from Morehouse College in 2014, completed his Master of Education at Auburn University in 2015, and graduated with his Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology at Auburn Univ. in 2019. He has been the recipient of 30 top honors and awards throughout undergraduate and graduate years. He has numerous published manuscripts and has multiple others in review.

The **Reynolds Returning Rock** program is an initiative of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation enabled with funding from 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.



## Barb Fackel AVID Scholarship

Barbara Fackel was an active community member and a staunch supporter of Rock Island-Milan public schools. Barb received her elementary teaching degree from the University of Northern Iowa and was a teacher in Reinbeck, IA before she and her husband Joe moved to Rock Island. Barb was engaged in public education from the time her own children attended Earl H. Hanson in the early 1970s. To honor her belief that a quality education would make all the difference in a student’s life, Barb’s family established the *Barb Fackel AVID Scholarship* with the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation. Barb had a keen interest in helping students who worked hard to overcome challenges of all types. The \$1,000 annual award will assist students who have completed 4 years of the AVID program, completed 15-20 hours of a service learning project within the school or community, maintained a 3.5 minimum GPA in their junior & senior years, and have the recommendation of an AVID teacher. In addition, a Barb Fackel PRIME Grant will be awarded as part of our regular PRIME Grant awards presentation. We are grateful for Barb’s support of RIMSD students and schools and the Fackel family – Joe, Kelly, Kristi, and Joey – for their continued support of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation.

## HAVlife Awards RIMEF \$10,000 for Student Activities

Over the past year, the RIMEF gave 123 grants to students in 12 of our 13 schools. The grants were funded by the HAVlife Foundation and allowed students, whose financial situations would prove an obstacle, to participate in extra-curricular activities. Music & art supplies, camps, sports participation fees, uniforms, and other costs are covered for students ages 10-15 to help keep dreams alive and “prevent lost potential.” At HAVlife’s Martini Shake-Off in February, the RIMEF was presented with a \$10,000 check to continue assisting students.



## RIMEF Board President, John Phillips



It is my honor to serve as president of the Rock Island-Milan-Education Foundation this year. The foundation has been supporting the students, teachers and the entire Rock Island-Milan School District for over thirty years. Thanks to our generous donors, we have been able to provide scholarships, grants to teachers for innovation and other creative programs that make our schools stronger.

Our two children received very special guidance and support when they received their education in the Rock Island-Milan public school system. This experience has helped them become successful and responsible adults. I also know how critical an effective public education system is for the success and strength of our community. So, it is my pleasure to provide whatever help I can to the foundation to keep our school system strong and make it even stronger in the years ahead.

Please join me and the rest of our board by contributing to the foundation. It is an important investment in the future of our children, our schools and our community.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our past president, Pryce Boeye, for his leadership during the past year. Also, thanks to our skilled and dedicated executive director, Monta Ponsetto for her excellent work. I want to also give a special thank-you to outgoing board members Rose Ann Hass and Russ Kennel who have fulfilled their terms this year with the foundation. They have served nine years on the board and have provided extraordinary service.

We had another dedicated board member who completed his nine years of service on the board. Clyde Schoeck was a valued member of the foundation and recently completed his service. We were shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. Clyde will be remembered for his dedication, good humor and passion for his community. Our deepest condolences to Donna and all of Clyde's family. Our foundation, our community and those of us who knew him will miss him greatly.

## Woodward Estate Provides \$25,000 Gift and Future Grant Opportunities

Rosemary Woodward may have been born in Appleton, WI but with her husband Keith, she made Rock Island, IL her home. She worked as a school nurse for 28 years, as a private-duty nurse, and at St. Luke's in Davenport. Rosemary was committed to making our community a better place donating much of her time and resources to that end. She volunteered with the Red Cross for 43 years and gave hours to the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island and the Rock Island Historical Society. Caring for the welfare of others and her community was Rosemary's passion and through her estate, she ensured her life of service would continue. Upon Rosemary's passing in May, 2019, the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation received a \$25,000 gift and that was only the beginning of her generosity. In March of this year, a \$2.1 million fund was established with the RI Community Foundation providing an annual distribution to eight organizations which enrich the community's quality of life. The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation is one of the organizations to benefit from the newly established "Keith and Rosemary Woodward Charitable Fund." We are extremely grateful for Mrs. Woodward's generosity and her belief in our mission. The students of the RIMSD will be the beneficiaries of her benevolence.



Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds  
**Bright Ideas Awards!**  
ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Through a \$50,000 gift to the Education Foundation, the Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds Bright Ideas Awards will give some creative teachers the means to fund special projects in their classrooms! The annual program will award 10 teachers \$200 each to benefit the students in their classrooms. Teachers will submit their ideas online by the beginning of December and winners will be announced mid-January. This program will give a few extra funds for "bright ideas" our teachers have mid-year. Once again, the RIMEF thanks Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds for strong support of education within the Rock Island-Milan School District!

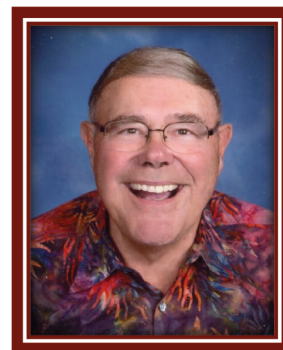
"If your plan is for 1 year, plant rice.  
If your plan is for 10 years, plant trees.  
If your plan is for 100 years, educate children."

- Confucius

## Remembering Clyde Schoeck

**Clyde Schoeck** was the ideal board member. The retired president of Modern Woodmen, Clyde served on multiple non-profit boards and always found time to volunteer. As someone who contributed his business acumen to the RIMEF, he possessed an uncanny ability to identify the essence of an issue – to restate it in clear, precise language allowing us to quickly render a decision. Clyde was more than a valued board member. As a long-time member of the scholarship committee, Clyde repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to children and the importance of education. Over the nine years he served on our board, he was a welcome presence among us. He was a joy to have at every meeting - sharing his big smile and infectious laugh. Usually the first to arrive for any meeting or event and the first to respond to an email, he willingly participated in the most menial of tasks – getting down to business with efficiency, enthusiasm and that smile.

We will try to live by his example of hard work, dedication, and humor – a triple threat for any board.



# \$89,800 Awarded for 2020 AAAA & Scholarships!

## Austin Academic Achievement Awards - Departmental

	<i>First Place</i>	<i>Second Place</i>
Scholarship award:	\$1,500	\$1,200
<b>Business:</b>	<i>Eh Yee</i>	<i>Henry Thompson</i>
<b>Career &amp; Technical Education:</b>	<i>Natalia Rosales</i>	<i>Logan Conner</i>
<b>English:</b>	<i>Larissa Pothoven</i>	<i>Julia Nash</i>
<b>Fine Arts:</b>	<i>Katherine Shewell</i>	<i>Liam Haskill</i>
<b>Mathematics:</b>	<i>Spencer Mar</i>	<i>Zoe Veasey</i>
<b>Science:</b>	<i>MJ Stern</i>	<i>Ryan Nickel</i>
<b>Social Studies:</b>	<i>Olivia Panegos</i>	<i>Ellie Miranda</i>
<b>World Languages:</b>	<i>Ashley Johnson</i>	<i>Nishemezwe Diane</i>
<b>Academic Excellence Awards (\$1,000 scholarship):</b>		<i>Jeremiah Wilhite</i>

View our "virtual" awards ceremony!

Go to YouTube.com and search:

**2020 RIMEF AAAA & Scholarship Presentation**



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

## ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship** \$2,000: *Gwendalyn Waggoner*
- Carole S. Barkan Scholarship** \$500: *Hannah Simmer*
- Boeye Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Kelsey Freeman*
- Grant W. & Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship** \$4,000: *Kaitlyn Welsh*
- Class of 1961 Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): *Caleb Carroll, Madelyn DePover, Liam Haskill, Clarissa Lopez, Jacqueline Ndayikengurukiye, Lah Paw, Ashton Timm*
- Class of 1963 "First in the Family" Scholarship** \$1,000: *Nu Khin*
- Class of 1965 Scholarship** \$500: *Ashley Johnson*
- Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship** \$1,000: *Henry Thompson*
- Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship** \$4,000: *Nishemezwe Diane*
- Barb Fackel AVID Scholarship** \$1,000: *Hae Ni Sher*
- Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship** \$2,000: *Natalia Martinez-Hernandez*
- Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship** \$1,500: *Olivia Panegos*
- Rick Gilliland Scholarship** \$500: *Miranda Banks*
- Ray and Elva Habertur Memorial Scholarship** \$2,000: *Josie Pennington*
- Hass Family Scholarship** \$1,000: *Emma Beierlein*
- The Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship** \$1,000: *Rafael Ramirez*
- Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship** \$500: *Jeremiah Kirby*
- Tyler John Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000: *Moises Salinas*
- Jumer's Casino and Hotel Scholarship** \$3,000: *Larissa Pothoven*, \$2,000: *Spencer Mar*, \$1,000: *Margaret Honeycutt*
- Judith A. Katz Fine Arts Scholarship** \$4,000: *Zoe Veasey*
- Donavin J. Keim Scholarship** \$500 Football: *Elale (Peter) Kimba*
- R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship** \$500: *Eh Yee*
- Marler Clark Science Scholarship** \$2,000: *Nils Empen*
- Herb Niemann Scholarship** \$1,200: *Aaliya Smith*
- Charlie White / Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship** \$500: *Jeremiah Kirby*
- Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): *Haley Burroughs, Juliana Rounds*
- Jayovontae "Jaree" Roberts Scholarship** \$500 Education: *Kmwe Say*, \$500 Music: *Allanah Berry*
- RIMEF Scholarship (2 Year College/Jr. College)** \$1,000: *Bianca Brown*
- RIMEF Scholarship (4 Year College)** \$1,000 (each): *Uwamahoro Sophie, Samuel Tauke*
- Chet Schultz Scholarship** \$1,000: *Shaila Christopher*
- Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship** \$1,000 (each): Baseball: *Caleb Carroll*, Softball: *Amelia Pena*
- Thoms Family Above and Beyond Scholarship** \$5,000: *Liam Haskill*, \$500: *Montana Hogan, Gwendalyn Waggoner, Zoe Veasey*
- Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship** \$1,000: *Mackenzie Noppe*
- Women's IT, Computer, and Math Scholarship** \$500: *Natalia Rosales*
- DW Young Memorial Scholarship** \$4,000: *Lauryn Dempsey*



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:**

**JOHN PHILLIPS, President**  
**PRYCE T. BOEYE, Vice-President**  
**CINDY LUKASIK, Secretary**  
**SHELLEE SHOWALTER, Treasurer**  
**STEVE ANDICH**  
**BRYAN BLEW**  
**BARB CADY**  
**ZACH EDWARDS**  
**CHRIS ELSBERG**  
**JERRY JONES**  
**DR. REGINALD LAWRENCE**  
**BOB SWANSON**

**HONORARY BOARD:**

**PRYCE BOEYE**  
**BILL CLEAVER**  
**REED DOUGHTY**  
**ROSE ANN HASS**  
**TED JOHNSON**  
**JODY LEIBY**  
**JON LOQUIST**  
**SUE MCDEVITT**  
**GARY MINER**  
**GARY ROWE**  
**COSETTE THOMS**  
**DAVE VANLANDEGEN**  
**DON WENTLER**



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Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation  
2101 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201  
[www.rimef.org](http://www.rimef.org) (309) 581-2154



## Support by “Chipping In!”

The fourth quarter of this year changed how our schools provided instruction. As the RIMSD adapted from in-classroom instruction to e-learning, providing the tools for successful remote learning has been a challenge. At this time, it has not been determined if in-classroom teaching will return for the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. To help ensure digital

equality for all students, the RIMEF is using its Birdies for Charity appeal to fund Chromebooks, the purchase & maintenance of wire-less routers, and other needed student/teacher technologies.

The John Deere Classic Golf Tournament has been cancelled this year but the Classic has promised that the hundreds of participating charities will still be supported through its Birdies for Charity program.

If 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! Birdies is requiring a minimum \$20 donation to receive the bonus. If you make your annual gift through Birdies, we will honor your intent and direct your donation as in the past. All other donations will be directed to the technology appeal above. If you're new to Birdies and prefer your donation to be directed to another one of our programs or our general fund, please contact the Foundation at 309-581-2154 or [rimef@rimsd41.org](mailto:rimef@rimsd41.org).

You can donate online or get more information at: [www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com)

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

All Birdies donations must be received at the tournament office by **July 10, 2020**.



Rose Ann Hass, Russ Kennel, and Clyde Schoeck were recognized at our May meeting for their NINE years of dedicated service to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Board of Directors. Rose Ann was a Founding member of the board starting in 1986 and served again from 2011-2020. Russ Kennel dedicated countless hours as Treasurer/Bookkeeper and Clyde Schoeck shared his expertise in business and non-profit experience while serving on multiple committees. Each made a difference for the students, teachers & schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District. We are grateful for their devotion to our mission presence on our board. Thank you!