



**ROCK ISLAND-MILAN**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT

*Enhancing Academic Opportunities  
for Student Success  
1986 - 2024*

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



**Spring/Summer 2024**

## ***A Night to Celebrate!***



The *Austin Academic Achievement Awards and RIMEF Scholarship Night* is an evening awarding the academic excellence at Rock Island High School. This year, 134 students were celebrated at the event held on May 8 in the RIHS Auditorium. 74 Top Ten students were recognized for their academic success and 70 deserving seniors of the Class of 2024 were awarded scholarships. 20 Austin Academic Achievement Award Departmental scholarships totaling

\$35,000 were presented. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place AAAA recipients were selected by the teachers within the 10 academic areas. The moving and sometimes entertaining nominations for the students were read by representative faculty. These scholarships are funded through our appeal sent in March along with donations received throughout the year. \$142,200 in RIMEF Named scholarships were then awarded. Several scholarship benefactors presented the award they had established making for a very memorable evening. The night concluded with a lovely reception in the RIHS "Island." This wonderful event was attended by a full house of parents/caretakers, families, RIHS faculty/administration, members of the RIMSD board, and the RIMEF board/committee members.

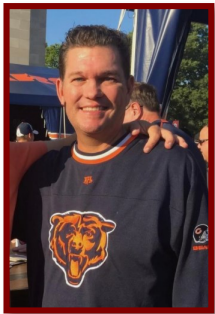
The evening and awards for our outstanding RIHS students were made possible through the generosity of nearly 170 AAAA contributors and 49 scholarship benefactors. This tradition of celebrating and awarding academic excellence within Rock Island High School and our district will continue thanks to the strong support of all those who believe in the students, teachers, and schools of the Rock Island-Milan School District.



## **Congratulations to the Class of 2024!**



### **New Scholarships**



#### **The Troy H. Ellis Scholarship**

Troy Ellis was a 1987 graduate of RIHS where he lettered as a 4-year member of the golf team. Troy graduated from the U. of Iowa and U of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. He became a successful attorney and remained an avid golfer throughout his life.

The Troy H. Ellis Scholarship was established by Troy's family and friends in honor of Troy and his love of golf. The recipient must have a GPA of 3.0-4.0, minimum of 2 years on the RIHS golf team, and a personal letter stating why they love golf, and the life lessons it has taught them. The annual scholarship award amount is \$1,500.



#### **The Steven and Mabel M. Velge Track & Cross-Country Scholarship**

Mabel Velge established this scholarship in memory of her son Steven - a member of the Class of 1969. Mabel started running at 55 and her love of the sport continued throughout her long life. She was a member of the Cornbelt Running

Club and ran dozens of marathons here and across the US. Two scholarships will be awarded - one to a female and one to a male who are members of Rocky's track or cross-country teams at the varsity level. A letter of recommendation must come from the track or cross-country coach. Each student receives a scholarship in the amount of \$6,000.



# Bryan Blew, 2024-2025 RIMEF Board President



It is my privilege to serve as President of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation for the 2024-2025 year. For nearly 40 years the Foundation has been a major asset to our community by, among other things, providing much needed grants to teachers, scholarships for graduating seniors, and improvement funds for school facilities and after-school programming. You will find plenty of details of the Foundation's contributions to our school district in this newsletter.

I am a proud parent of two fourth-generation Rock Island High School graduates and have witnessed first-hand the import role that the Foundation plays in enriching students' lives and in helping to prepare them for solid community citizenship.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our committee members and board members, with a special recognition to our immediate past president, Barb Cady; retiring board member, Pryce Boeye; and new board member Ian Frink. Additionally, our Executive Director, Monta Ponsetto, deserves special recognition as she continues to steer our organization in ever-improving directions, most notably in continually building relationships with future benefactors and in driving the establishment of our endowment fund.

Most importantly, this Foundation would not be possible without YOU, the benefactors and contributors who have created what has become a premier source of funding that is succeeding in improving our community and the citizens of our future. For that, I thank you!

I hope you are able to continue to support our efforts, whether by donating during our annual appeals, planned and estate giving, through the Birdies for Charity program, or simply by spreading the word about how the Foundation is positively impacting our school district and community.

## RIMEF Board of Directors

### WELCOME

### THANK YOU



### Ian Frink

Ian Frink, RIHS Class of 1990, is the newest community member and former Rock to join the RIMEF Board of Directors. After graduating from RIHS, Ian attended and earned his BA from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and received his Master of Business Administration from Frostburg State

University in Maryland. He stayed on the east coast working in media relations and marketing for the NCAA. In 2000, Ian moved back to the Quad Cities as the Co-Owner of Crawford Company which includes Crawford HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical, and Fabrication, along with Monoxivent and Seaberg Industries. Since 2018, Ian has also co-owned and managed Crawford Brew Works in Bettendorf.

Ian has been an active and engaged member of the Quad Cities community having served on numerous boards on both sides of the river. He has proved to be an asset to the RIMEF having volunteered to mentor our INCubator.edu teams this past year and has served on both our Fundraising and Endowment committees

Welcome Ian!



### Pryce T. Boeye

THANK YOU to Pryce Boeye for his nine years of dedicated service on the RIMEF Board of Directors. Pryce was recognized at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting for the tremendous leadership he provided from 2015-2024. Pryce served on multiple committees during his tenure including

Board Development, Executive, Finance, and Publicity & Marketing (Chair). Pryce was our Board President for two years - for our challenging 2019-2020 year and again in 2022-2023.

Pryce's insight and oversight helped the RIMEF grow over his tenure on our Board. We are incredibly grateful for his impactful commitment to our mission. THANK YOU!!!



**WE'VE MOVED! OUR OFFICE IS NOW LOCATED IN ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL!**

Please be sure to note our new address:

Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation  
1400 – 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201





## 2023–2024 Final Pitch!



On May 15, five outstanding teams from the 2023-2024 RIHS INCubator.edu class presented their business pitches before a public audience in the Rocky Auditorium. The five teams advanced from the Academic Pitch held on May 8 when all INCubator.edu teams presented. The pitches were evaluated/scored by a panel of judges from the academic and business communities. The five presenting teams were: *ATS (Automatic Turn Signal)*, *CloudSerts*, *QCFashion*, *Swaver*, and *Take Over*. *Swaver* was named “Best Business Model” and “Best Business Potential” and was awarded

\$5,000 for their team. *QCFashion* was given the “Best Pitch” and received \$2,500. Both teams can use their prizes as seed money for their businesses or evenly divide their winnings for scholarship awards.

### Thank you to all our Judges (MVP, Academic, and Final):

Pranay Banjuri-Deere & Co.  
 Ellyse Builany-Fortress Bank  
 Theresa Cannavo-Edwards Creative  
 Dan Coyne-Logan-RIHS Assistant Principal  
 Zach Draper-past INCubator student  
 Zach Edwards-Revolarc  
 Dr. Kit Evans-Ford-Argrow’s House  
 Avery Flactiff-past INCubator student  
 Ann Friedrichs-Western Illinois University  
 Doug Hultquist-QC Bank & Trust (retired)

Mike Huntley-Group O  
 Ty Lewis-United Way  
 Mike Matson-Mayor of Davenport  
 John Nagle-QC Bank & Trust  
 Monta Ponsetto-RIMEF  
 Mark Schwiebert-McCarthy, Callas, & Feeney &  
 Former Mayor of Rock Island  
 Eric Spriet-American Bank & Trust  
 Mike Thoms-Mayor of Rock Island  
 Ron Wastyn-Wastyn & Associates Ltd.

Thank you as well to all the coaches, mentors, Jerry & Sue Horton, DARI (Development Association of Rock Island) and RI Rotary for helping these RIHS students develop future-ready skills. Thank you to Mark & Elizabeth Thies for continuing to fund the \$5,000 award money. Thank you to all our donors – with your help the RIMEF pays the ongoing costs of the INCubator.edu curriculum and training as well as funding seed-money to develop team websites, prototypes, etc. during the school year. Community support is critical for the success of this program and encouraging to all our student entrepreneurs.

### *Congratulations to all INCubator.edu 2023-2024 teams!*



### 2024 Final Pitch Awards:

**Best Business Model (\$5,000): SWAVER** – Lucette Feigley, Julian Jimenez, Mason Lensing, Larry Olivier Jr.

**Mentor** – Ian Frink

**Best Pitch (\$2,500): QCFashion** – Irakoze Dorcas, Harrison Kelley, Jesse Rockhold, Asia Stern

**Mentor** – Mrs. Patricia Matson

**Best Business Potential: SWAVER**

### *INCubator Team Finalists:*

**ATS (Automatic Turn Signal)** – Ali Al-Janabi, John Holland, Niyo Bucumi **Mentor** – Ian Frink  
**CloudSerts** – Ali Aliev, Madjid Gunashev, Leek Malual, Michael Mitchell **Mentor** – Mrs. Matson  
**Take Over** – Payten Bunch, Gueliano Morrow-Criner **Mentor** – Shay Moore

### *Additional INCubator Teams:*

**BBA (Be Better Apps)** – Cyrus Gwesinie, Ja’Unique Morgan **Mentor** – Tracy Singleton  
**ITA (Individual Task Assistants)** – Ke’Erica Stewart **Mentor** – Shay Moore  
**PC Corporation** – Shaylea Childress, Ruby Plasencia **Mentor** – Mrs. Matson  
**SMS** – Justin Gregory **Mentor** – Mrs. Matson  
**Vistrium** – Marco Carapia, Luis Hernandez, Manuel Marceleno, Angel Rodriguez **Mentor** – Bill Stengel

## Donors Making a Difference – Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds



Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds have made support of education and community their mission. Darrell, RIHS Class of 1965, and Mary Anne, Alleman Class of 1965, have provided for programs, projects, classrooms, and families throughout our area. You would be hard-pressed to find a Rock Island-Milan student who has not benefitted from the Reynolds's generosity. They currently fund two of our named scholarships, the Bright Ideas Awards (see below), the Reynolds Returning Rocks program, and have paid for numerous special projects or needs within our classrooms and schools. The Reynolds believe that if a project impacts children, it's a way to give back to the community and improve the quality of life.

Darrell and Mary Anne don't seek the spotlight unless their giving motivates others to give as well. Darrell frequently sends quotes emphasizing the importance of giving to children, thank you memes: "Teachers don't teach for the income, they teach for the outcome" and emails with stories such as:

*There once was a man vacationing on the coast of Mexico. One evening, he decided to take a midnight stroll down the deserted beach. There was a full moon and down the beach he could make out a boy who would scurry around, pick up something and throw it back into the ocean. As the man drew closer to the boy, he could the beach was littered with starfish. As he reached the boy, he asked what he was doing. The boy explained that with each full moon the tide would wash the starfish so far up on the beach that they were destined to die the next day in the sun.*

*The man responded that there must be thousands of miles of beach and millions of stranded starfish. How much difference did this one boy hope to make?*

*The boy pondered the question for a moment, looked back at the starfish in his hand and tossed it as hard as he could back into the life-giving sea and answered, "It made a difference to that one."*

Darrell continued this email with – *So when asked to support the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation, maybe think about this story and know if you make a contribution, you made a difference in the life of a student and a young mind.*

Darrell retired as owner and CEO of Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick in Milan eight years ago allowing he and Mary Anne to enjoy more time with their kids and grandkids. They stay involved with various organizations they have been with over the years, but they are focus on time with the family.

Thank you, Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds, for your continued unmatched support and making a difference in the lives of our RIMSD students.

*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*

## RIMEF Endowment Fund

### Individual/Family

Jerry & Sue Horton  
Stephen & Marla Andich  
Brian & Barb Cady  
Ken & Linda Cutler  
Ian & Monique Frink  
Doug & Nancy Hultquist  
David & Ann Koch  
Karen Haberthur Leonard  
Fred & Cindy Lukasik  
Ray & Kitty Nolin  
Mike & Sue Oberhaus  
Ontiveros Family Fund  
Darrell & Mary Anne Reynolds  
Gary & Randi Segal  
Cosette Shrader  
Harlan & Angeline Wiss

### Corporate/Business

Group O  
Blackhawk Bank & Trust  
Crawford Co.  
Estes Construction  
The Hungry Hobo  
IMPACT  
LMCC Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 25  
Mel Foster Co.



Through the support of the Reynolds Family Foundation, the following teachers received \$200 each for classroom projects. In December, teachers submitted their ideas online and 20 of these "Bright Ideas" were funded mid-year -- another program which enhances RIMSD classrooms to benefit our students!

### 2023-2024 Bright Ideas Award Winners

Crystal Aldeman, English Learners  
Cindy Arkebauer, Eugene Field  
Alexis DeWilde, Ridgewood  
Mara Goodvin, Ridgewood  
Bill Gustafson, Rock Island HS  
Steve Inman, Longfellow  
Amanda Long, Preschool for All  
Laurie Lyon, Head Start  
Sarah Martin, Head Start-RICMS  
Mary Mendelin, Rock Island HS

Susan Moline-Pedro, Denkmann  
Jeanne Mueller, Head Start  
Tara Niemeier -Longfellow  
Gretchen O'Brien, Denkmann  
Angie Paprocki, Denkmann  
Gabrielle Pepping, Frances Willard  
Susie Pittard, Head Start  
Susan Thompson, Preschool for all  
Kiley Van Opdorp, Longfellow  
Laurie Vroman, Rock Island Academy



Reynolds Family Foundation Fund

# Bright Ideas Awards!

ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## RIMEF Endowment Fund

The RIMEF Endowment Fund is a permanently restricted investment fund set up to receive contributions from our donors. The interest earned from the donations will be used to finance specific activities – the donations themselves (the principal) will never be spent. Only academic programs and/or activities as defined by the endowment will be supported by the fund: Rock Island Milan School District (RIMSD) led initiatives as agreed upon by the RIMSD and the RIMEF's Endowment Fund Committee Carefully and regularly reviewed investment strategies will increase the fund's impact and create sustainable growth.

The purpose RIMEF Endowment Fund is to impact the future by ensuring the academic success of Rock Island-Milan Education School District students for years to come.

*We have raised a little over 1/2 of our \$500,000 initial goal. Please consider an investment of \$5,000 or more to the RIMEF Endowment Fund.*

For more information, please contact the RIMEF at 309-581-2154 or [rimef@rimsd41.org](mailto:rimef@rimsd41.org)



# Class of 2024 Scholarship Recipients



Maryam Alhamdan



Ali Aljanabi



Joseph Allen



Fidelia Awoudi



Presley Behrens



Mpawenimana Bella



Jackson Bennett



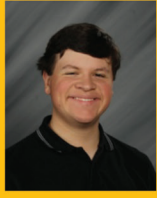
Daianna Biswell



Addison Bomelyn



Kal Boswell



Harrison Brady



Jett Brandt



Nininahzwe Brigitte



Joshua Brown



Kylan Brozovich



Ntiruvakure Dinye



Zach Draper



Josephine Driskill



Eva Essman



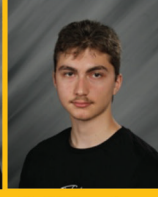
Lucette Feigley



Avery Flactiff



Joshua Galeana



Madjid Gunashev



Luke Gustafson



Zafirah Hassan



Da Gay Htoo



Emily Hummel



Dezmund Jackson



Sean-Anthony Jackson



Kaitlyn Jacoby



Andrew Kerno



Jody Kitterman



Alaina Kress



Madelyn Kress



Carly LeMaster



Riley LeVan



Asa Mahn



Manuel Marceleno



Almir Matias



Laticia McCray-Brown



Gianna Mills



Ella Mlekush



Eh Kler Moo



Lah Set Kpru Moo



Ta Ear Paw Moo



Man Nuam



Cecilia Padilla



Ka Yot Paw



Lah Hser Paw



Leticia Ramirez



Ian Regur



Cheyenne Rodriguez



Isaiah Samuelson



Gracie Schepher



Amalia Serrano



Alivia Stanley



Asia Stern



Aria Sulouff



Jesse Thomas



Chloe Turner



Daryn Untiedt



Egan Westmorland



Skyler White



John Wilde



Mayani Wilondja



Cody Wolf



Norah Wright

**Not Pictured:**

**Ali Jasim  
Michelle Rivera-Marceleno  
Khadija Sakho**



The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation supports the students, teachers, and schools of the RIMSD through grants, programs, and student scholarships. Our generous donors help fund major programs and initiatives including:

- Austin Academic Achievement Awards
- PRIME (Promoting Rock Island Milan Education) Grant Program
- RIMEF Named Scholarships
- INCubator.edu/Entrepreneurship Class

Learn more and find out how you can help make a difference for the 6,000+ students of the RIMSD!

309-581-2154

[rimef@rimisd41.com](mailto:rimef@rimisd41.com)

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





## Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships



### **Nell Althoff Family Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500 each**

In memory of long-time 1st grade Audubon teacher Nell Althoff  
Recipients: *Ali Aljanabi, Zafirah Hassan, Ella Mlekush, Ka Yot Paw*

### **Charles O. Austin Leadership Scholarship - \$2,000**

Honoring Charles O. Austin, Jr. and Charles O. Austin, III  
Recipient: *Asa Mahn*

### **Bally's Quad Cities Scholarship - 3 awards**

For students demonstrating academic and social achievement  
Recipient, \$3,000 award: *Eva Essman*  
Recipient, \$2,000 award: *Presley Behrens*  
Recipient, \$1,000 award: *Luke Gustafson*

### **Carole S. Barkan Scholarship - \$1,000**

In memory of Carole's life devoted to advocating for students  
Recipient: *Carly LeMaster*

### **Boeye Family Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established by the family to recognize involvement in extra-curriculars and the community  
Recipient: *Ali Aljanabi*

### **Grant W. and Virginia M. Brissman Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation to honor the Brissmans  
Recipient: *Egan Westmorland*

### **Class of 1961 Scholarship - \$1,250 each**

Established and funded by the Class of 1961  
Recipients: *Daianna Biswell, Joshua Galeana, Manuel Marceleno, Leticia McCray-Brown, Gianna Mills, Eh Kler Moo, Cecilia Padilla, Ka Yot Paw, Leticia Ramirez, Cheyenne Rodriguez, Khadija Sakho, Daryn Untiedt, Skyler White, Cody Wolf*

### **Class of 1963 "First in the Family Scholarship" - \$1,000 each**

Established and funded by the Class of 1963  
Recipients: *Ella Mlekush, La Set Kpru Moo, Man Nuam*

### **Class of 1965 Scholarship - \$500**

Established and funded by the Class of 1965  
Recipient: *Dezmund Jackson*

### **Stanley H. Coin Business Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established by American Bank & Trust to honor Stanley H. Coin  
Recipient: *Leticia Ramirez*

### **Donald E. Devinney Business and Business Education Scholarship - \$8,000**

Established by former RIHS business teacher Mr. Don Devinney  
Recipient: *Manuel Marceleno*

### **Troy H. Ellis Scholarship - \$1,500**

In memory of 1987 Rocky graduate Troy Ellis. Troy lettered all 4 years playing on the RIHS Golf Team - for a student who has played at least 2 years on the golf team and recognizes how the sport changed their life  
Recipient: *Daryn Untiedt*

### **Barbara Fackel AVID Scholarship - \$1,000**

In memory of Barbara Fackel and her commitment to education - for a student completing 4 years of the AVID program  
Recipient: *Fidelia Awoudi*

### **Ben D. and Nancy K. Brown Farrar Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established by former RIMSD teacher Nancy K. Brown Farrar  
Recipient: *Jackson Bennett*

### **Jim and Doug Franz Memorial Scholarship: \$1,500**

Established in memory of the former Rocky Grads  
Recipient: *Chloe Turner*

### **Rick Gilliland Scholarship - \$500**

In memory of teacher Rick Gilliland - for a student attending Black Hawk College  
Recipient: *Mpawenimana Bella*

### **Ray and Elva Haberthur Memorial Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established to honor the long-time Rock Island contributors  
Recipient: *Cecilia Padilla*

### **Hass Family Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established by the family in honor of Mary and Art Hass  
Recipient: *John Wilde*

### **Heart of a "Rock" - \$1,000**

Established by 2010 alum Megan Wilson and Triona Roberts - for students who have a family member struggling with a major illness  
Recipient: *Ntiruvakure Dinye*

### **Amy Helpenstell Liberal Arts Scholarship - \$1,000**

Honoring Rocky and Augustana College graduate, Amy Helpenstell  
Recipient: *Lah Sher Paw*

### **"Failure is Not an Option" the Candice Hinze Williams Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established in honor of Candice Hinze Williams (Rocky Class of 1986) - for students interested in pursuing drama at a college/university.  
Recipient: *Kal Boswell*

### **Jerry and Sue (Farrow) Horton Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by the Hortons to encourage work in trades or nursing  
Recipient: *Andrew Kerno*

### **Derek James Jackson Art Scholarship - \$500**

Established for a student who has participated in the Rocky art curriculum  
Recipient: *Avery Flactiff*

### **Timothy Joannides Family Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000**

Timothy Joannides and his family established this scholarship for students having participated in band or orchestra while attending Rocky  
Recipient: *Khadija Sakho*

### **Tyler John Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

In memory of Tyler for a student in band and/or orchestra  
Recipient: *Emily Hummel*

### **Judith A. Katz Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established in memory of Judith for a student exhibiting outstanding academic achievement  
Recipient: *Kal Boswell*

### **Donavin J. Keim Scholarship - \$500 each**

Funded by the family in memory of the former student athlete. One scholarship is awarded to a football player and one to a student wrestler  
Recipient - Football: *Avery Flactiff*  
Recipient - Wrestler: *Jesse Thomas*





# Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarships



## **Knights of Pythias Scholarship – \$1,000**

The Knights of Pythias Scholarship was established is awarded to a senior exemplifying the 3 main principles of the fraternal order: Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence  
Recipient: *Joy Kitterman*

## **R. Decker Magee Memorial Scholarship - \$500**

Established in memory of RIHS graduate Decker Magee  
Recipient: *Almir Matias*

## **The Marler Clark Science Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established to aid a student pursuing a degree in science  
Recipient: *Maryam Alhamdan*

## **Mollie Montgomery Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation for a student entering a medical field  
Recipient: *Josephine Driskill*

## **Herb Niemann Scholarship - \$1,200**

In memory of former teacher and principal Herb Niemann  
Recipient: *Aria Sulouff*

## **R. Dale Owen “Be the Light” Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established by the Ascentra Credit Union Foundation to honor Dale Owen and his generosity of spirit to his community  
Recipient: *Leticia Ramirez*

## **Charlie White/Richard Klatt Purple Tuna Creativity Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established by '83 grad Cary Hinze in honor of his influential RIHS art teachers  
Recipient: *Madelyn Kress*

## **Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Automotive Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by the Reynolds for a student who will enter the automotive field  
Recipients: *Sean-Anthony Jackson*

## **Darrell and Mary Anne Reynolds Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by the Reynolds to reward hardworking students  
Recipients: *Zack Draper*

## **Miles W. Rich Family Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by Mr. Rich for a student who will major in Business Administration  
Recipient: *Alivia Stanley*

## **Jayovontae “Jaree” Roberts Scholarship - \$500 each**

Funded by family and friends to honor former student Jaree Roberts  
Recipient, Education: *Ali Aljanabi*  
Recipient, Music: *Kal Boswell*

## **Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Scholarship - \$1,000 each**

3 scholarships funded by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation  
Recipients, 4-year College: *Addison Bomelyn, Jett Brandt*  
Recipient, 2-year College: *Michelle Rivera-Marceleno*

## **Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation Merit Scholarships - \$1,000 and \$500**

3 scholarships funded by the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation  
Recipient, \$1,000: *Alaina Kress*  
Recipient, \$500: *Joseph Allen, Nininahazwe Brigitte, Joshua Brown, Isaiah Samuelson*

## **Fred Houlton “Service Above Self” Rock Island Rotary Scholarship - \$1,000**

For demonstrating service to the community and living the Rotary 4-Way Test  
Recipient: *Asa Mahn*

## **Rock Island Township Scholarship - \$1,500**

To support a student residing in RI Township and attending an IL college  
Recipient: *Cheyenne Rodriguez*

## **Chet and Louise Schultz Scholarship - \$2,000**

Established in memory of Rocky wrestling coach/teacher Chet Schultz and teacher Louise Schultz  
Recipient: *Jesse Thomas*

## **Schwiebert Family Scholarship - \$2,000**

The Schwiebert siblings established this scholarship to benefit liberal arts college-bound students  
Recipient: *Kylen Brozovich*

## **William and Saralie Shallman Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500**

This scholarship was established by John Shallman (Class of '82) to memorialize his parents - students must demonstrate leadership and initiative in service and/or community involvement  
Recipient: *Lucette Feigley*

## **Terry Stephens Memorial Scholarship - \$500 each**

Established to honor former baseball coach Terry Stephens  
Recipient, Baseball: *Jesse Thomas*  
Recipient, Softball: *Chloe Turner*

## **Thoms Family “Above and Beyond” Scholarship - \$5,000**

Established by the Thoms family to encourage and reward the leadership and entrepreneurial spirit of RIHS students  
Recipient, *Norah Wright*

## **Steven and Mabel M. Velge Track and Cross-Country Scholarship - \$6,000 each**

Established by Mabel Velge in memory of her son Steven Velge, RIHS Class of 1968, and for her love of running.  
Recipient, Female: *Norah Wright*  
Recipient, Male: *Ian Regur*

## **Elizabeth Kennel Williams Scholarship - \$1,000**

Honoring the '86 RIHS graduate who dedicated her career to helping students overcome challenges  
Recipient: *Madjid Gunashev*

## **Women’s Computer Science, Math, & IT Scholarship - \$500**

Encouraging women to pursue a degree in computer science, technology, or math  
Recipient: *Kaitlyn Jacoby*

## **Rosemary Woodward Scholarship - \$1,000**

Established with a grant from the RI Community Foundation to honor Mrs. Woodward. The scholarship is awarded to a student who will study nursing or to be a CNA  
Recipient: *Lah Set Kpru Moo*

## **DW Young Memorial Scholarship - \$4,000**

Established by the family in memory of DW Young, a strong supporter of RI schools  
Recipient: *Riley LeVan*

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:**

- BRYAN BLEW, President**
- ZACH EDWARDS, Vice-President**
- STEVE ANDICH, Secretary**
- SHELLEE SHOWALTER, Treasurer**
- BARB CADY**
- CHRIS ELSBERG**
- IAN FRINK**
- RACHEL GUSTAFSON**
- DOUG HULTQUIST**
- ERIC ROWELL**
- BOB SWANSON**
- LASHANTA WILLIAMS**

**HONORARY BOARD:**

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>PRYCE BOEYE</b>   | <b>CINDY LUKASIK</b>    |
| <b>BILL CLEAVER</b>  | <b>SUE MCDEVITT</b>     |
| <b>REED DOUGHTY</b>  | <b>GARY MINER</b>       |
| <b>ROSE ANN HASS</b> | <b>JOHN PHILLIPS</b>    |
| <b>TED JOHNSON</b>   | <b>GARY ROWE</b>        |
| <b>JERRY JONES</b>   | <b>COSETTE SHRADER</b>  |
| <b>RUSS KENNEL</b>   | <b>DAVE VANLANDEGEN</b> |
| <b>JODY LEIBY</b>    | <b>DON WENTLER</b>      |
| <b>JON LOQUIST</b>   |                         |



# ROCK ISLAND-MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

**INNOVATION • OPPORTUNITY • SUPPORT**

**Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation**  
**1400 – 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201**  
[www.rimef.org](http://www.rimef.org) (309) 581-2154

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## BIRDIES!

The John Deere Classic is almost here, but you can still get a 2024 Birdies donation in before the tournament ends on July 7! When you donate through Birdies, we receive 100% of your donation PLUS we receive a guaranteed 5% and up to 10% for your gift! You can make an annual gift or direct your donation to your preferred program. If we receive no instruction, we will direct your funds to assist our 2024-25 PRIME Grant awards.

Donate online or get more information at:

[www.birdiesforcharity.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.com)

The RIMEF Birdies number is – 1255



The 2024-2025 school year is just a couple of months away and the Major Saver campaign will run in the school this August. You can purchase a card online any time starting in August and throughout the year for Quad Cities vendors or possibly your own city...and you can still credit the RIMEF or your child's school! To date, the program has raised \$287,000 for participating schools and for our PRIME Grants!

Get your Major Saver card at:

[www.majorsaver.com](http://www.majorsaver.com)

Find your card, credit our schools, and SAVE!

## RIMEF Recognized for Support

The Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation was recognized by the Regional Office of Education with the *2024 Friend of Education Award*.

The award is sponsored by the Rock Island County Regional Office of Education as part of their Excellence in Education Awards

honoring teachers, school support personnel, volunteers, and friends of education throughout the Rock Island County region. All recipients were honored in a two-page advertisement in the Dispatch/Argus and electronic billboards that highlighted the recipients. The adjoining photo shows RIMSD Incoming Superintendent Dr. Sharon Williams presenting the award on behalf of the RI Office of Education.



## Recognition from Family and Community Engagement

The RIMEF was recognized by the Rock Island Milan School District's Family and Community Engagement at its Volunteer/Community Recognition Program held at the end of May. The RIMEF takes every opportunity to provide information about our programs to district families by hosting tables at Ready to Rock the School Year, the Courses & Activities Showcase, Winter Bash, College Application Days, and other events put together by the RIMSD Family and Community Engagement Team.