COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

2021 SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

What if a whole community paid it forward?



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



DANIEL ROSS

President Community Foundation of Northern Illinois Last June, twenty days before starting a new role as President of the Community Foundation, my family and I tuned into watch the 2020 virtual CFNIL Scholarship Award Night. To say it was an incredible experience is putting it mildly; I was blown away by the depth of the scholarship program's impact and the breadth of the community's involvement in this work. Those 22 minutes revealed (and the eleven months since have confirmed!) that the people of northern Illinois are not only generous, they are committed to strengthening the future of our community by direct investment in local students.

We believe that this report is an answer to the question posed on the cover: What if a whole community paid it forward?

- Donors who give out of thankfulness for past generosity toward their own education
- Volunteers who devote significant time and attention to ensure every applicant has a fair shake at an award
- Students who commit to completing a degree or advancing their career to improve their own life and the community around them

A scholarship is more than a check; it is a down payment on our future. Read on to learn more about the CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021. We think you will agree that our community, a community that pays it forward, is building a future that is solid and bright.

Congratulations to the CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021, and our deep thanks to the donors and volunteers who make this effort possible!

Something that was really important to me was recognizing that if I was able to utilize help from organizations like the Community Foundation when I was going to college, that would propel me to put myself in a position where when I'm older I can do the same for other students. So it was very important to me to put myself in a position where not only could I serve myself, but I could create a legacy of serving others...

[Because of] my work with the In Youth We Trust Council here, I was able to see the big impact you can have on your community if you're willing to look at problems from multiple angles. I decided that ultimately if I wanted to be someone who was able to fix some of the larger problems I saw in the world, I needed to be able to look at them from both a moral and a financial perspective.



ARYAN ARORA

Auburn High School Graduate, 2020 CFNIL Scholarship Recipient: Amanda Reed Memorial Scholarship In Youth We Trust College Award International Management Council (IMC) Scholarship

CFNIL 2021 SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

While the communities of northern Illinois continue to feel the impact of a pandemic, there are still lots of reasons to celebrate and anticipate great things to come from the CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021: 140 students from 28 high schools, awarded over \$335,000 in support of their educational aspirations.

A Community Effort

This year over one hundred community volunteers read and reviewed nearly 1,000 applications. Despite having to meet via Zoom for the second year in a row, reviewers recommended 175 scholarships totaling \$335,874.

Supporting Diverse Students with Diverse Goals

CFNIL Scholarships were created by donors that recognize the importance of helping students achieve their educational goals, now and in perpetuity. These donors selected criteria based on their interests and the community's need. Many of CFNIL's scholarships are memorials, which celebrate the life and passions of individuals. The diversity of scholarship offerings reflects the diversity of CFNIL's donors and the communities it serves.

The majority of scholarships are for current college students and graduating high school seniors in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties. Scholarships are available based on a variety of factors: community engagement, academic achievement, financial need, athletic participation, field of study, and more. There are scholarships for non-traditional, minority, and first-generation college students; nearly two dozen scholarships are available for students who have a GED.

The Privilege of Stewardship

It is a unique and distinct privilege to connect the generosity of donors to hundreds of exceptional students from across the region each and every year. CFNIL is pleased to provide this report of awards made in the 202 I scholarship cycle and a closer look at the achievements and aspirations of this year's recipients.

Thank you for reading!

Here's to the CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021!

It's not easy going back to school. I'm disabled so I'm on Social Security and I didn't think it would be possible. With the foundation and opportunities like these it makes it easier for me not to give up on my dream. My passion is helping people, and now I'd like to focus on the senior members of our community. I'd like to be able to learn how to help them in a more effective way.

I'd like to say thank you! If it wasn't for organizations and people like [this] that support non-traditional students like us then it wouldn't be possible to continue our education.



RACHEL PEREZ

GED Earner, 2020 CFNIL Scholarship Recipient: Kjellstrom Women's Initiative Scholarship Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity College Scholarship

CFNIL SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE AT A GLANCE

What if a whole community paid it forward?

The CFNIL Scholarship
Program is truly a community
effort. From donors to
volunteer reviewers, from
applicants and their families
to school counselors, it takes
all hands on deck to complete
a successful scholarship cycle.







\$335,874 IN TOTAL (S) AWARDS

2020-2021 TIMELINE

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Annual meeting held to provide information about CFNIL and other local scholarships to counselors from the region's high schools.

NOVEMBER 20, 2020

ScholarshipsNI.com announced!

DECEMBER 1, 2020

CFNIL Scholarship application opens for 2020 - 2021 cycle.

DECEMBER 8, 2020

I I th-annual (and first-ever VIRTUAL!) Community Scholarship Fair held.

CFNIL SCHOLARSHIP CYCLE AT A GLANCE

What if a whole community paid it forward?

Introducing: ScholarshipsNI.com

In 2012, local organizations came together to hold a Scholarship Fair for the benefit of students in northern Illinois. The success of that first fair ensured it would become an annual tradition, connecting providers of local scholarships and other types of financial aid resources to people planning to further their education. In 2019, nearly 400 people from across the region attended the Fair.

When it became clear that the impact of COVID-19 would not permit an in-person 2020 Scholarship Fair, the presenting partners made the most of the opportunity and established ScholarshipsNl.com, a one-stop-shop for details about local private scholarships, as well as information about broader financial resources.

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Rockford Public Library, and Rock Valley College Foundation are pleased to provide this resource to the communities of northern Illinois, and hope it will increase access to resources and information for students, parents, counselors, providers, and people interested in supporting students' aspirations for years to come.

Learn more at ScholarshipsNI.com!











2020-2021 TIMELINE

FEBRUARY 1, 2021

Scholarship application closes! In spite of the challenges of a fully virtual cycle just under 1,000 applications submitted.

MARCH - APRIL 2021

100+ volunteer scholarship advisors read and review nearly 1,000 applications, recommending 175 awards totaling over \$335K

MAY 1 & 3, 2021

Scholarship recipients notified; CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021 made public!

JUNE 10, 2021

202 I Virtual Scholarship Award Night premieres on <u>CFNIL's Facebook page</u> at 7:00 p.m. Join us to meet the CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021!

Details are sorted by scholarship name, then by student last name. Date indicates student's year of high school graduation. Information is current as of June 3, 2021.

Alpha Delta Kappa Xi Education Scholarship Khrisa Miskell | Hononegah High School | 1992 Antonio Ramirez III | Jefferson High School | 2018

Amanda Reed Memorial Scholarship Mykel Goodloe | Jefferson High School | 2013 Syeria Scott | Auburn High School | 2017

Amber Huber Memorial Scholarship Jordyn Conard | Byron High School | 2018 Hailey Groharing | Byron High School | 2021 Arynn Mathieu | Byron High School | 2019 Amanda Williams | Byron High School | 2020

Anna Schiller Scholarship Brenden Brass | Rockford Christian High School | 2021 Christopher Whelan | Rockford Christian High School | 2021

Annie and Oscar Blackwell Scholarship Maryianya Jackson | Rockford East High School | 2021

Anthony and Charlotte Kinney Scholarship Annah Dulaney | Pecatonica High School | 2021 Brianna Meyer | Pecatonica High School | 2018

Ashley E. Ketcher Memorial Scholarship Ieva Surantas | Auburn High School | 2021 Beta Gamma Recruitment Grant Marina Klein | Harlem High School | 2021

Betty Harlan Memorial Art Scholarship Emma Gocken | Pecatonica High School 2021

Billy Smith Memorial ScholarshipBraden Politsch | Forreston High School | 2021

Bonnie Sorenson Scudder Scholarship Gwendolyn Uppleger | Harvard High School | 2021

Buster Lindsay Memorial Scholarship Carter Anderson | Jefferson High School | 2021

Carolyn Wones Recruitment Grant Paige Stolp | Belvidere North High School | 2021

Charles Lee Anderson Memorial Scholarship Judy Kohler | Stillman Valley High School | 2019

Deborah Jean Rydberg Memorial Scholarship Kaiya Kolberg | Guilford High School | 2021

Dorothy Cleland Memorial NSDAR Scholarship Taylor Lapp | Pecatonica High School | 2021 Taw Meh | Jefferson High School | 2021

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Dr. Constance L. Goode Memorial Scholarship Tobia Thomas | Jefferson High School | 2013

Dr. Gussie M. Ware Memorial Scholarship
Lanayja Box | Jefferson High School | 2021
Alexus Hughes | South Beloit High School | 2021
Maryianya Jackson | Rockford East High School | 2021
Haley Nickols | Guilford High School | 2021
Osayennwen Omozusi | Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | 2021
Kennedy Porter | Auburn High School | 2021
Hope Washington | Harlem High School | 2021
Nia Williams | Harlem High School | 2021

Dr. Loomis/Rockton Lions Club Scholarship Riley Shores | Hononegah High School | 2021

Early Childhood Educators Scholarship Kylee Semenchuk | Harlem High School | 2020

Elsie Jefko Carlson Scholarship Felipe Gelacio | Guilford High School | 2003

Era L. and Frances L. Walker Scholarship Aindo Issa | Rockford East High School | 2021

Ernest and Charlene Stachowiak Memorial Scholarship Felipe Gelacio | Guilford High School | 2003 Natalia Mihigo | Rockford East High School | 2019 Frances Grant Triebel Memorial NSDAR Scholarship Thomas Schramer | DeKalb High School | 2021

Gary S. Wilmer/RAMI Music Scholarship Aria Beert | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021

Gene Bradford Memorial Scholarship Paige Bukoski | Byron High School | 2021

Geoffrey R. Laird Memorial Scholarship Sam Praneis | Hononegah High School | 2020 Mohammad Salem | Auburn High School | 2020 Kodai Speich | Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | 2021

Harry H. and Floy B. Chapin Scholarship Abby Cline | Dakota High School | 2021 Annah Dulaney | Pecatonica High School | 2021

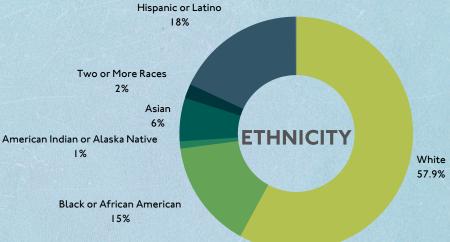
Hazel Mortimer Hyde Memorial Conservation NSDAR Scholarship Phuong Pham | Auburn High School | 2021

Hegel Family Soccer Scholarship Isabel Henry | Hononegah High School | 2021 Owen Ivanuck | Hononegah High School | 2021

Helen R. (Finley) Loescher and Stephen B. Loescher Scholarship Sydnee Forrester | Freeport High School | 2021

MEET THE CFNIL SCHOLARSHIP CLASS OF 2021





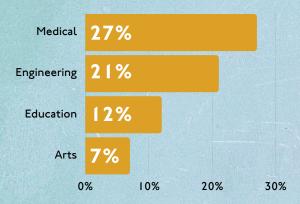
10% OVER AGE 23 5% OVER AGE 30





MEET THE CFNIL SCHOLARSHIP CLASS OF 2021

TOP 4 INTENDED MAJORS







52% PLAN TO ATTEND A SCHOOL IN ILLINOIS



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Howard and Eithal Curry Elementary Education Recruitment Grant Darby McGowan | Rockford East High School | 2021 Julie Oetting | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021

Howard D. Colman Honorarium Rashad Ahmad | Guilford High School | 2020 Drake Buss | Winnebago High School | 2020 Maya Pandya | Auburn High School | 2020

Howard D. Colman Scholar Adam Bohn | Hononegah High School | 2019 Sabrina Meng | Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | 2020 Dalton Morris | Rockford Christian High School | 2018

Howard D. Colman Scholarship Recipient
Luke Grocholl | Hononegah High School | 2021
Sreyansh Mamidi | Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | 2021
Phuong Pham | Auburn High School | 2021
Elizabeth Rothermel | Durand High School | 2021

In Youth We Trust College Award
Lindsay Arreguin | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021
Abbey Buchanan | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021
Ariana Castillo | Harlem High School | 2021
Sophie DiBenedetto | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021
Crystal Lee | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021
Emi Manaligod | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021
Angel Nasanbuyan | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021
Nadhia Manthuruthil | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021

In Youth We Trust College Award (continued)
Megan Thiravong | Rochelle Township High School | 2021
Danvers Trenhaile | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2021

International Management Council (IMC) Scholarship Malavika Menon | Hononegah High School | 2021

"It's Up To Me" Scholarship Taw Meh | Jefferson High School | 2021

Janet L. Williams Mathematics Scholarship Ephraim Boomer | Hononegah High School | 2021

John E. Lindley Memorial Swim Scholarship Sophia Durbin | Guilford High School | 2021 Ieva Surantas | Auburn High School | 2021

John Flynn Memorial Scholarship Andrew Daly | Pecatonica High School | 2021

Jouris Family Scholarship McKenna Handy | Pecatonica High School | 2021

Karen E. and Robert K. Harter Recruitment Grant Alondra Torres | Jefferson High School | 2016

Keith Maffioli Scholarship Joshua Oetting | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021

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Kjellstrom Women's ScholarshipNicole Hall | GED Program | N/A
Claire Reck | Rockford Christian High School | 2014

Larry and Betty McGee Scholarship Maya Pandya | Auburn High School | 2020

Leonard D. Carmichael Community Service Scholarship Angel Cruz | Rochelle Township High School | 2020 James Hart | Rochelle Township High School | 2019 Ayah Sbeih | Rochelle Township High School | 2021 Anakin Weston | Rochelle Township High School | 2018

Lieutenant Kelli Ingardona Memorial Scholarship Logan Villafuerte | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021

Margaret T. Craig Community Service Scholarship
William Kinczewski|Boylan Central Catholic High School|2018
Natalia Mihigo|Rockford East High School|2019
Khrisa Miskell|Hononegah High School|1992
Grace Schaefer|Boylan Central Catholic High School|2016
Scott Schneider|Winnebago High School|2019
Crystal Schuring|Hononegah High School|1990

May-Cassioppi Scholarship Sophia Durbin | Guilford High School | 2021

Mike Lindberg Memorial Scholarship Alana Levine | North Boone High School | 2021 Olivia Marx | North Boone High School | 2021 Nancy Kalchbrenner Scholarship Taw Meh | Jefferson High School | 2021

Nettie and Jesse Gorov Scholarship Jessica Contreras | Rochelle Township High School | 2013 Morad Suliman | Auburn High School | 2018 Alondra Torres | Jefferson High School | 2016

Northwest Community Center Scholarship Mykel Goodloe | Jefferson High School | 2013

Northwestern Illinois Building Trades Blais Family Scholarship Kyle Strite | Oregon High School | 2021

Phyllis Howard Memorial Scholarship Brett Beaman | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 1996

Pi Gamma Omega Scholarship Kalilah Chears | Rockford East High School | 2021 Nia Williams | Harlem High School | 2021

President's Discretionary Scholarship Markiese Morgan | Harlem High School | 2017

R.I.S.E. Nursing Scholarship Jessica Contreras | Rochelle Township High School | 2013

Randall A. Blank Memorial Scholarship Thuy Linh Nguyen | South Beloit High School | 2020

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Details are sorted by scholarship name, then by student last name. Date indicates student's year of high school graduation. Information is current as of June 3, 2021.

Richard Dopp Memorial Scholarship Elesea Galvan-Neubauer | Rockford East High School | 2021

Richard L. Bernardi Memorial Scholarship Kouther Ali-kabsh | Guilford High School | 2018

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity College Scholarship Ariahnna Hightower | Jefferson High School | 2021 Syeria Scott | Auburn High School | 2017

Rockford Products Corporation Foundation Scholarship
Elesea Galvan-Neubauer | Rockford East High School | 2021
William Kinczewski | Boylan Central Catholic High School | 2018
Maya Pandya | Auburn High School | 2020
Phuong Pham | Auburn High School | 2021
Elizabeth Rothermel | Durand High School | 2021
Courtney Shimp | Harlem High School | 2020
Eli Stoneberg | Guilford High School | 2021

Rockton Lions Club Scholarship Bryn Hansmeier | Hononegah High School | 2021

Roger L. Ekstrom Memorial Scholarship Isabel Villagomez | Guilford High School | 2021

Senior Memorial Scholarship Mohammed Aljobori | Guilford High School | 2021 Phuong Pham | Auburn High School | 2021 Soil and Water Stewardship Scholarship Benjamin Schaub | Downers Grove North High School | 2021

Sorensen Memorial Architecture Scholarship Madelyn Craft | Auburn High School | 2020 Kevin Jenks | Belvidere High School | 2019 Ahoud Thabet | Rockford East High School | 2021

Sorensen Memorial Engineering Scholarship Matthew Freedlund | Hononegah High School | 2019 Carl Granath | Auburn High School | 2020 Phuong Pham | Auburn High School | 2021

Sorensen Memorial Music Scholarship Grace Hoening | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2020 Gabriel Roethle | Auburn High School | 2019 Isabella Schmid | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2021

Sorensen Memorial Theater Scholarship Noella Bonsol | Belvidere High School | 2021 Ben Johnson | Harlem High School | 2020 Gabrielle Tifft | Belvidere North High School | 2019

Susan Kay Munson Gilmore Memorial Scholarship Kouther Ali-kabsh | Guilford High School | 2018

Taus Community Endowment ScholarshipOsayenmwen Omozusi | Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy | 2021

Details are sorted by scholarship name, then by student last name. Date indicates student's year of high school graduation. Information is current as of June 3, 2021.

Terrance Freeman Sr. Memorial Scholarship Brenden Brass | Rockford Christian High School | 2021

Tyler Kinison Memorial Scholarship Agius Adamany | Guilford High School | 2021

University of Michigan Scholarship William Snedegar | Auburn High School | 2018

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 984 Scholarship Adam Belinson | Belvidere North High School | 2021 Meghan Harris | Auburn High School | 2013

Walter K. Raczynski Family Scholarship Melis Dik | Auburn High School | 2019 Maram Quhshi | Rockford East High School | 2020 Ava Sommer | Auburn High School | 2021

Wilbur & William Cummings Memorial Scholarship
Caleb Andre | Belvidere North High School | 2020
Isabella Andre | Belvidere North High School | 2021
Samantha Baker | Belvidere North High School | 2020
Nixie Lopez Leon | Belvidere North High School | 2019
MacKenzie Powers | Belvidere North High School | 2018
Connor McGuire | Belvidere North High School | 2020
John Ryan | Belvidere High School | 2019
Courtney Williams | Belvidere High School | 2018

Willard J. Corbett & Alice C. Corbett Scholarship Angela Gavic | Auburn High School | 2018 Taw Meh | Jefferson High School | 2021 Natalia Mihigo | Rockford East High School | 2019 Breon Newble | Guilford High School | 2018 Thuy Linh Nguyen | South Beloit High School | 2020

Tahjanay Shelton | Guilford High School | 2020 Montez Soliz | Jefferson High School | 2019 Eli Stoneberg | Guilford High School | 2021

William Pigott Memorial Scholarship Luke Grocholl | Hononegah High School | 2021

William R. Durham Drama/Theater Scholarship Agius Adamany | Guilford High School | 2021 Abigail McBee | Homeschooled | 2020

WoTM Ruthann Gaston Women in Engineering Scholarship Milica Samoukovic | Guilford High School | 2019

WoTM Scholarship
Justin Gates | Homeschooled | 2017
Felipe Gelacio | Guilford High School | 2003
Paige Lambright | Belvidere North High School | 2020
Abigail Temple | Rockford Lutheran High School | 2020

Zeta Chapter Memorial Award Abigail Houk | Belvidere High School | 2021 Darby McGowan | Rockford East High School | 2021 I will be pursuing a BS in Psychology. I want to help people like I've been helped in the past.

I think [this scholarship] will help me in a lot of ways especially because I have to pay for equipment for my vision needs, so that will take a little pressure off of me.

I appreciate all the hard work and everything you've done to help me achieve my goals.



AMARI RICHARDSON

Guilford High School Graduate 2020 CFNIL Scholarship Recipient: Dr. Gussie M. Ware Memorial Scholarship In Youth We Trust College Award It's Up To Me Scholarship John E. Lindley Memorial Swim Scholarship Taus Community Endowment Scholarship

INTRODUCING THE NEW:

PAY IT FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Since CFNIL's first scholarship was given in 1994, we've awarded more than \$3.4 million dollars to thousands of northern Illinois students. Hundreds of volunteers have read thousands of applications, and every year come to the same conclusions: our students are doing amazing things, and there are far more deserving applicants than scholarships to give. There are always students who deserve an extra boost, who have overcome unbelievable obstacles to complete their education and just need a little more to get over the finish line.

They've inspired us to create the new Pay It Forward Scholarship, and we're asking our whole community to help us. Pay It Forward is CFNIL's first crowdfunded scholarship, meaning that it wasn't created by a single donor but instead will be funded by gifts from the community.

A generous donor who wants to inspire generosity in others has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, every donation to the fund by December 31st, up to \$30,000. If we reach that goal, we'll have a total of \$60,000 and will be able to award an extra \$2,400 to deserving students every year in perpetuity.

The Pay It Forward Scholarship is also unique because every student who applies for any CFNIL scholarship and lives within the CFNIL service area will be eligible. No additional essay or references necessary. Our reviewers will be looking for students who demonstrate grit and the ability to overcome obstacles in the pursuit of their post-secondary education, and students won't need to do anything extra to be considered. It also gives our reviewers an opportunity to support those students who may not be the best fit for the scholarship they're reading, but whose stories leave an impression.

If you'd like to contribute, visit <u>cfnil.org/scholarships</u>.
We hope that you'll help us to Pay It Forward as a community for years to come!

The more than 90 scholarship funds managed by the foundation conveys its mission, which is to preserve and grow an endowment for the current and future needs of the people of northern Illinois. Our donor's wishes will be preserved for generations through the power of endowment, and the resources they generously provided will be available for our students as long as there is a need.

It is our privilege to connect the generosity of donors with exceptional students from across the region this year, and for many years to come.

Congratulations!



ERIN MAGGIO-CALKINS

Chair, CFNIL Board of Trustees







GET INVOLVED

Want to be part of the CFNIL Scholarship program? Interested in learning more about being a scholarship advisor, creating your own scholarship fund, or supporting an existing scholarship? <u>Visit our website!</u>

TUNE IN

This year's virtual Scholarship Award Night video will premiere Thursday, June 10th, at 7:00 p.m. on <u>CFNIL's Facebook page</u>. Hear from recipients, donors, volunteers, and staff, and meet the entire CFNIL Scholarship Class of 2021!

SAVE THE DATE!

The photo above is a highlight from from our last in-person Scholarship Award Night held in 2019. We plan to be back in person next year on Thursday, June 9, 2022!



his report was created by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The full report, which includes video clips and animations, may be viewed and downloaded at cfnil.org/2021-scholarship-recipients. Information in this report is current as of May 14, 2021. Questions? Contact CFNIL at info@cfnil.org





COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS