



RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING MILWAUKEE'S OLDEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

EST. 1868

150 years of Academic Excellence!

July 2021

2021 Scholarship Recipients

This year the RUHS Foundation has awarded 19 scholarships, three of which are recurring ones. We are so grateful to our donors, sponsors, alumni, and friends whose generosity made this possible. We continue to grow each year both in the number and the monetary value of the scholarships we are able to award.

This year's students were learning virtually from March of 2020 to the last week in April 2021. They persevered in their studies and managed to stay active in clubs and organizations. Their Advanced Placement classes and Project Lead the Way courses in biomedicine continued on virtually. Their extracurricular activities such as the Yearbook and the National Honor Society were able to meet via Google Classroom or Zoom. Most spring sports came back on April 19, 2021.

Like last year, our student applicants were serious about their futures and applied to colleges, sought out scholarships, and completed their FAFSAs via the Internet. We conducted interviews once again via Zoom and each student was prompt and prepared. We applaud this group of young people whose senior year was unlike any other and we salute the staff of Riverside who worked so hard to make sure they made it to graduation. Each of our applicants made reference to the support and encouragement they received from their teachers.

Riverside's IN PERSON graduation was held on June 1st at the UWM Panther Arena in downtown Milwaukee. We are confident that our scholarship recipients will be a credit to their families, to their community, and to Riverside as they move on to college and their adult lives. We are so proud of them.



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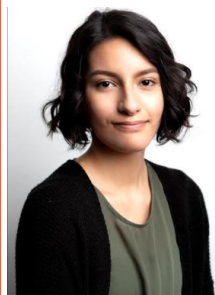
Jennifer Kringel

RUHS Guidance Counselor

Continuing Scholarships

Gary Steinhafel and Jocelyn Servick Scholarship

Year Two, \$25,000

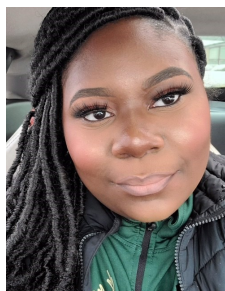


Yareli Suarez a great experience for her. This summer she intends to work and take Pharmacology.

Yareli Suarez, Class of 2019, recently completed her second year of nursing school at Cardinal Stritch University. In addition to achieving a 3.7 GPA, she attended MATC in the evening to obtain her CNA. Her clinical experience at Froedert Hospital needed to obtain her certification was

Tom Bauch Scholarship

Year Three, \$2000



Takayla Holmes

Takayla Holmes, Class of 2019, will be a junior at Marquette University where she is majoring in Operations Management. Takayla had a rigorous semester taking 19 credits virtually which also included a full time internship. She plans to stay a fifth year at Marquette and complete her Masters.

Bezella Family Scholarship

Year Two, \$5,000



Emelyne Nshimirimana

Emelyne Nshimirimana, Class of 2020, will be receiving a second award of \$5000 from the Bezella Family to continue her studies at Marquette University. The scholarship is designated for students pursuing careers in science and Emelyne is currently majoring in Biological Sciences. She spent her freshman year adjusting to virtual learning and increased family obligations due to the pandemic. She had a rigorous class load studying chemistry and biology both semesters.

She was chosen to work in a research lab during the fall, will serve as treasurer for the Marquette medical society club called AMSA, and will be an orientation leader for the incoming freshman class.

Emelyne is grateful to the Bezella family for their recurring generous scholarship and their support of and faith in her.

Towerview Investment Four Year Incentive to Graduate Scholarship

Raman Ghei, president of Towerview Investment Company established this continuing scholarship for an ESL student who is an immigrant and first generation college student. The \$1000 scholarship award will increase each year to total \$10,000.



Muhammad Ahmed

GPA:3.32; Class Rank 38 of 265
Plans to attend MSOE

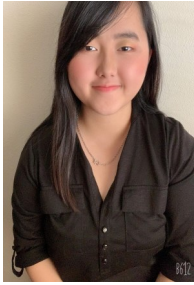
Spending his first year of high school in Pakistan, Muhammad started at Riverside as a sophomore and has done extremely well. He was a member of the National Honor Society, served on the Student Committee, volunteered at the “Baitul Qadir” Mosque, and participated in the Sponsor-A-Scholar program at the Boys & Girls Club.

Muhammad was also part of Riverside’s award-winning Robotics Club which helped him develop confidence in his English language skills and gave him practical experience toward his goal of becoming a mechanical engineer. His American Government teacher praised him for being goal oriented and hard working.

In the final sentence of his application essay, Muhammad states, “I am dedicated to pursue an engineering degree and use the knowledge from Riverside to help serve underprivileged communities in Milwaukee.”

Werner Family Scholarship

The Werner Family has been a part of the Riverside community for many years. Gwen and Bill's two sons attended Riverside. Gwen also serves on the Foundation's board. The family makes donations every year so that this \$2000 scholarship can benefit deserving seniors.



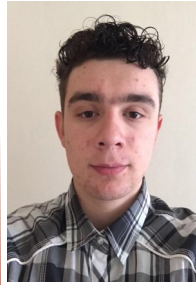
GPA: 4.00; Class Rank 7 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Pazong Her

Pazong will attend UWM next year to pursue a degree in Healthcare Administration. She was a member of the National Honor Society, College Possible, Girls' Soccer, and Tiger Sisters (a young women's wellness group.) She also performed community service with the Hunger Task Force and assisted with special needs children's activities.

Her art teacher stated, "Pazong is very deserving of any scholarship that she applies for because she is so hard working. She is the type of person you want to point out to others and say 'See this is what a leader looks like and how a leader conducts themselves.'"

In her essay, Pazong remarked "As a refugee coming from a different place like Thailand, it was hard to adapt to the United States. Growing up learning the English language was not easy but I had to adjust and adapt to it in order for me to have a better life. During my years in high school, school was difficult, but I believed in myself... Riverside has provided me with the foundation and knowledge to succeed and establish goals."



GPA: 2.94; Class Rank 73 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Tanner Perlowski

Tanner joined Riverside as a sophomore transferring from a high school in Poland where he lived with his father. He appreciated the diversity and opportunities that Riverside offered. He joined many clubs and sports including Robotics, wrestling and soccer. He says that being an athlete taught him how to be humble and work hard. In his essay, he credited the Robotics club with helping him identify his passion for engineering. He wrote, "This amazing program provided me with hands-on activities that I felt very passionate about."

His teachers describe Tanner as dependable, ambitious and inquisitive. One wrote, "Tanner is an exceptional student who goes beyond what is expected from him as a student. In addition, he is a polite and charismatic young man."

Waldner/Cornell Family Scholarship

Suzanne and Don Cornell's four children graduated from Riverside in the 90's. Suzanne was a teacher and coach at Riverside for 20 years and currently serves as a cochair of our Foundation. This \$2000 scholarship was established to encourage careers in public service such as firefighting, teaching, and police work that their children pursued.



GPA: 4.075; Class Rank 6 of 265
Plans to attend MATC

Jaeden Carrasquillo

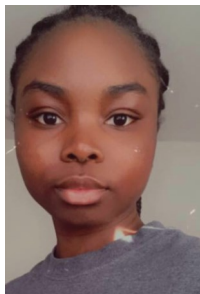
Jaeden's GPA reflects how well he did academically at Riverside; he was part of the PLTW Biomedical Engineering program and took all its four classes as well as several AP classes. He plans to become an EMT and paramedic and perhaps in future years, a geneticist.

Jaeden gives credit to Riverside for the direction and support he received as a student. The biggest thing he learned from Riverside is "to help others the way I was helped at school." He served on the Student Council all four years, was the baseball manager, and was on the swim team for two years and the volleyball team for one.

His math teacher describes Jaeden as responsible, tolerant, and empathetic. "The world could use more caring individuals like him."

Drew/Washabaugh Scholarship

Cathy Washabaugh, a retired RCHS journalism teacher, revitalized the school newspaper in the early 1990's. Mike Drew, a local retired journalist, volunteered his time and mentored the newspaper students. Upon her retirement, Cathy, along with her husband Bill, and Mike, along with his wife Alice (Hanson), established this scholarship and continues to support Riverside graduates. Three \$2000 scholarships were awarded to students with a 2.5 GPA who plan to attend a Wisconsin school.



GPA: 3.57; Class Rank 23 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Dede excelled at Riverside in her four biomedical courses through Project Lead the Way and in the French language program. As a native French speaker, she started in French 2 as a freshman, French 4 as a sophomore, and Advanced Placement French language as a junior. She and her French instructor used her French classes to also sharpen her English language skills along with Riverside's ESL program. In her essay about her experience at Riverside, she pays tribute to both her French and ESL teachers for encouraging her to work as hard as possible and make smart decisions.

Dede Ekue

Dede played soccer for Riverside and did extensive volunteer work with a number of agencies including Habitat for Humanity, West Granville Presbyterian Church, and for several food pantries.

Her teacher recommendations describe how she is intellectually curious, stalwart, and rises to each academic challenge. Dede plans to pursue a nursing degree with a minor in French.

GPA: 3.45; Class Rank 29 of 265
Plans to attend Marquette University

Daequan is very involved in the Riverside community. He is a member of National Honor Society, Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) and the school band. He feels his involvement in extra-curriculars helped change him as a person for the better. His science teacher states, "His leadership, positive attitude, organization, and community service all demonstrate that Daequan has what it takes to continue excelling academically. He will continue to make a positive impact and be a role model."

Daequan discovered his passion for writing during his involvement in GSA. He plans to pursue a career in Journalism and digital media. Since August 2019, he has co-hosted a local radio show called, *Hustle and Grow*. In his essay, Daequan credits Riverside for his career plans.



*Daequan
Muirhead*



GPA: 4.31; Class Rank 2 of 265
Plans to attend Marquette University

Joshua is the co-valedictorian for the senior class. His academic record is faultless, excelling in music, honors and advanced placement classes. His extra-curricular activities include National Honor Society, school musicals, UWM Talent Search, Sponsor-A-Scholar and Youth Symphony Orchestra.

*Joshua
Wilder*

In his essay, Joshua thought he was very timid as a freshman. His family teacher convinced him to try out for the school musical. He states, "Performing in *The Wiz*, resulted in my acquisition of communication skills, as I collaborated and bonded with my fellow castmates. I then implemented those skills into my classwork, thus pushing me to excel academically."

Joshua's teacher wrote in his recommendation, "His ability to be a role model for his peers, his humble diligence, and his ability to think critically makes him a competent and competitive student."

Jim Gibson Memorial Scholarship

This \$1000 scholarship was established in memory of Jim Gibson, who worked tirelessly for the Foundation to provide scholarships for Riverside graduates and to improve Riverside. Jim was passionate about Riverside's history and wrote a book entitled, *RUHS: Milwaukee's Oldest Public School*, which chronicles Riverside's 150 years of education.



Tou Xiong Lor

GPA: 3.78; Class Rank 15 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

In his scholarship essay, Tou Xiong writes, "As an Asian American immigrant, education is very important to me. I'm really grateful to Riverside for providing AP classes that helped prepare me for college." He is described by his teacher as steadfast, motivated and dedicated.

In addition to the AP classes, Tou Xiong enjoyed band, computer and art classes where he has discovered his joy of playing a musical instrument, photography and drawing. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Asian Club, band and JV Soccer.

Scholar Athlete Scholarship

This \$1000 scholarship was established by Mary Fowlkes, a 1971 graduate of Riverside, who later on became a physical education teacher at Riverside, retiring in 2013. She is famous for the expression, "It's a Great Day to Be a Tiger." Ms. Fowlkes serves on the Board of the Foundation and is very interested in rewarding Riverside athletes who work hard on both academics and sports.



Ana Maria Hernandez

GPA: 3.25; Class Rank 46 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Ana Maria was fully engaged as a student in clubs and activities which included the Gay Straight Alliance, Student Council, Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Wrestling Team, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Upward Bound Math and Science. She earned 12 college credits through the ECCP (Early College Credit Program). Additionally she performed volunteer work in her neighborhood.

Her intended major is nursing and with advanced training, she plans to become a nurse anesthetist.

One of her teachers stated that "Ana Maria is an outstanding young woman with strong critical thinking skills, ambition to succeed and the grit to persist. One of my favorite things about Ana is that she is not afraid to assert herself."



Kadi Yang

GPA: 3.57; Class Rank 24 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Kadi explored a variety of activities while she was at Riverside. She played both soccer and tennis and joined the Chess Club, Geek Club, and Asian Club. She took several AP classes and participated in Upward Bound Trio for three years. She volunteered at both the New Life Hmong Alliance Church and St. Agnes Parish in Butler.

She draws, sews, plays the piano, and cooks. Her teachers describe her as smart, creative, dependable, and loyal. One of them wrote "her inquisitiveness will take her far in life."

Kadi credits Riverside with helping her to open her mind and opinions. She writes, "seeing everyone coming from so many different backgrounds has allowed me to change who I am." She plans to study at UWM, but her ultimate goal is to become a family physician to those in need.

You can place your Amazon.com orders through "Amazon Smile" and designate the Riverside University High School Foundation as your charity of choice. The Foundation will then receive .5% of the price of all eligible Amazon Smile purchases. This is an easy way to support the Foundation's efforts on behalf of Riverside University High School.

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Tom Wild Legacy Scholarship

In 2018 Tom Wild was recognized at the RUHS Foundation's 150th Anniversary Celebration for his legendary work as an educator and leader. When he retired in 2019 the Milwaukee Common Council, four members of which had been his students, honored him for all he did to nurture and encourage students to become active citizens. Mr. Wild currently serves as Co-Chair of the Foundation. This \$2000 scholarship which he established is awarded to a student with high academic achievement, student activity participation, community service, and financial need. The student should be able to articulate the legacy they have passed on to RUHS.



Ger Lor

GPA: 4.32; Class Rank 1 of 265
Plans to attend Marquette University to study Nursing

Ger was the president of National Honor Society and his extracurricular activities included Student Council, Asian Club, Student Think Tank, Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, UW-Milwaukee Upward Bound, Boy's and Girl's Club of Greater Milwaukee Sponsor-A-Scholar, Men's Intramural Volleyball and Men's JV Soccer. Additionally, Ger found time to volunteer with the Riverwest Food Pantry, Riverside Blood Drive, and a number of others.

Ger is a Hmong immigrant and a first generation college student. He finished first in his class and admitted to setting high standards for himself. He is passionate about helping others and described by teachers as responsible, empathetic and hard-working. He was the only applicant this year that had a perfect score in all categories on his teacher recommendations. To quote one teacher, "Ger is an outstanding student and a fine human being. He does very little to draw attention to himself, so he barely gets the recognition that he deserves. He is a scholar, an artist and a leader. He is kind to others and pushes himself to always do his best. He is a shining example of what it means to be a Tiger."

In his own words, "No matter where I go, I will never forget the place that made me who I am. It is always a good day to be a Tiger."

Towerview Investment Scholarship

In addition to his four year scholarship, Mr. Raman Ghei, president of Towerview Investment Company, has funded this \$1000 award. The recipient should have two of the three requirements: ESL, first year generation college student and/or an immigrant to the US.



Da Ni Aye
Lah

GPA: 4.24; Class Rank 3 of 265
Plans to attend UWM

Da Ni Aye (Dan) will be studying civil engineering and elected to attend UW-Milwaukee because of its' diversity and proximity to home. Dan's extracurricular activities included freshman and sophomore soccer, National Honor Society, Upward Bound, College Possible, Gear Up and he was employed at FedEx Ground.

In his essay, Dan described moving to the United States from Thailand and learning English at age ten. He recalled the difficulty of doing assignments that he didn't really understand. "I had to work harder than the other students and it was worth it; I graduated as a salutatorian in middle school." At Riverside he ranked third in his class. Dan is one of eight children and was encouraged and inspired by his parents to "take advantage of every opportunity given to me". His parents "told me education is the most important thing in life" and he "will go to college and graduate with at least a bachelors degree so I can take care of my parents and make them proud." Dan was described by his teachers as smart, funny, and hard working.

Bette Cano Scholarship

Da Ni Aye Lay was also awarded this scholarship that was established by the family of Bette Cano, a Milwaukee area community activist who fought hard for social justice, equality and opportunity for all. Three of Bette's four daughters are graduates of Riverside University High School. Bette's four daughters honor her memory with a \$500 scholarship to support the further education of a deserving Riverside graduate who has demonstrated commitment to community involvement and activism.

Tabak Family Scholarship

This \$1000 scholarship was established by Fred Tabak, a 1961 graduate of Riverside. Mr. Tabak is the founder of the Tabak Law, LLC which is a rapidly expanding Social Security Disability, Worker's Compensation and Veteran's Benefits law firm serving client's across the country. He and his family have been long time supporters of MPS.



Aaliyah
Fliegel

GPA: 3.70; Class Rank 19 of 265
Plans to attend Marquette University

At Riverside Aaliyah was on the Varsity Swim team and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She was also active in the YMCA Teen Achievers, College Possible, and People Program at UW-Madison. Her volunteer experience includes working with Stepping Stone and VLCC Fresh ministries.

In her scholarship application essay Aaliyah describes how hard she worked at Riverside to get on the Principal's Honor Roll and into the National Honor Society by the beginning of her junior year. These efforts are borne out in her teacher recommendations in which she is described as motivated, dedicated, hard working, kind, and full of integrity.

Aaliyah was part of the Project Lead the Way Program which has led her to choose nursing as a college major and career goal. Nursing will allow her to help others and treat them with compassion.

Foundation General Scholarship

The Riverside University High School Foundation was founded in 1997 by several school alumni. They were concerned that a lack of money for public schools was beginning to reach a crisis stage and was slowly eroding the extraordinary high quality of education at Riverside, which had always been a hallmark of the school since its founding in 1868 as Milwaukee's very first public high school. The Foundation's primary source of funds is individual contributions from Riverside alumni, retired staff and friends. These \$1000 scholarships are awarded to students with a 2.5 GPA, financial need, participation in school activities and community service.



Roshendia
Brister

GPA: 2.251; Class Rank 159 of 265
Plans to attend Mississippi State

In her scholarship essay, Roshendia describes growing up in a "home of OR where opportunities of this AND that were rare." As the youngest of five children, she already is helping the family through babysitting and working at Walmart. She understands how hard her mother has worked to provide for her family and that motivates her to be the first of her siblings to go to college.

Roshendia improved her grade average each school year. Her English teacher and her assistant principal commended her on her hard work, her curiosity and intelligence, and her determination. She is interested in the fields of veterinary medicine and psychology. She would someday like to open and run a free veterinary clinic.

GPA: 2.60; Class Rank 116 of 265
Plans to attend the University of Arizona

Kenyare's academic performance improved greatly from his freshman to senior year. His extracurricular involvement included playing basketball and football, College Possible Program and he volunteered at the YMCA. His intended major is Business Administration with an interest in Real Estate and Sustainable Building.

Teachers comments describe Kenyare as ambitious, a self-starter, persistent, personable and determined. In his essay, Kenyare wrote "Going to Riverside has taught me that there is no such thing as 'I can't'. If I believe that I can do something, then I will do it. The only person who can stop me from achieving my goals is me."



Kenyare
Griffin-Jenkins

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