



RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING MILWAUKEE'S OLDEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

EST. 1868

150 years of Academic Excellence!

MARCH 2019

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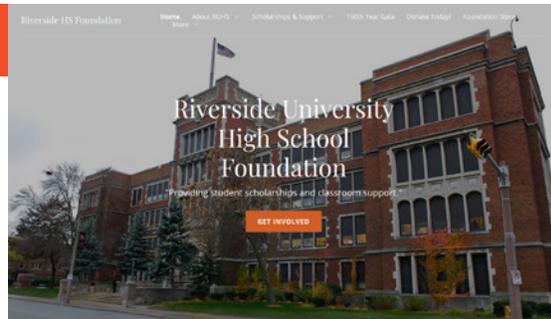
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Foundation Web Site

If you have not already done so, we highly recommend that you visit the RUHS Foundation web site at www.riversidefoundation.com to see the new and exciting features regarding Riverside alumni. There is a new section on "Military Veterans" that currently features a list of Riverside graduates who served in World War I as well as those who served in the Vietnam War. We would like to build this list to include Riverside alumni who served in World War II, Korea, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan. Any information you have that might be helpful to us can be e-mailed to riversidefoundation@gmail.com.



Scholarship Profiles

Our revised web site also contains profiles on the 2017 and 2018 recipients of the RUHS Foundation Scholarships. These are remarkable students who continue to do remarkable things to prepare themselves for college. They get outstanding grades while taking the most academically challenging college preparation courses offered by any high school in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. They serve their community in many ways. They participate in many of the extracurricular activities offered by Riverside. They were the leaders of the school setting the tone for the entire student body that Riverside is an educational institution that places great emphasis on academic rigor and high academic achievement.

"The Survey Says ..."

Riverside has never had anything more than an anecdotal way of determining how their graduates perform in college and what kind of adults they become. The Foundation is trying to change that. We believe that feedback from graduates will help guide teachers in deciding what they teach and how they teach it. It will also help the Foundation determine whether its limited funds are being spent in the best way possible.

Since 2010, the Foundation has granted 262 scholarships totaling \$157,250. Several surveys that we have done recently of these Foundation Scholarship recipients have resulted in some interesting feedback.

1. Our scholarship recipients are completing their undergraduate degrees in the standard four years.
2. 78.6% attended Wisconsin colleges. Of those students, 68% attended colleges in the Milwaukee area.
3. The fields of study included Business (39.3%), Sciences (21.4%), Human Services (35.7%), Arts (3%).
4. The average undergraduate cumulative grade point average was 3.34.
5. The recipients gave Riverside a B+ in the quality of preparation they received for college.
6. Our students are graduating from college with a student loan burden ranging from \$0 to \$250,000. Of those who accumulated student loan debt, the average amount was \$55,000.



Donations to the Foundation are down from last year. We are likely to have to offer **fewer Scholarships** in May than we normally do. We did not have enough money to fulfill all of the **Teacher Classroom Assistance** requests this semester and we are going to have to do aggressive fundraising in order to meet the 2019-20 School Year first semester requests. The updating and expansion of the **Wall of Honor** will cost \$6,000. We have only been able to raise \$1,800 toward that goal so far. We need your help now more than ever. You can use the donation form below or you can go to our website at www.riversidefoundation.com and donate through PayPal or by using a credit card. The Foundation is a volunteer organization. Our administrative costs are minimal. Your donation will go directly toward helping Riverside students and teachers maintain Riverside's 150+ years as a school that values a rigorous curriculum, high academic achievement, school and community service at the same time as it celebrates a student body that reflects the cultural, racial, and socioeconomic diversity of the community that it serves.

The Foundation Store

“Riverside University High School – 150 Years of Academic Excellence” – This 240 page history of Riverside High School includes facts, stories, pictures and records tracing the 150-year history of Milwaukee’s very first public high school established in 1868. Copies are available for \$30 each including postage.

Commemorative “150th Anniversary, orange and black coffee cups - \$20

“Tiger Paw” Lapel Pins - \$15

Please clip the form below and send it to:

RUHS Foundation • c/o Tri City National Bank • 4295 W. Bradley Rd. • Brown Deer, WI 53209-1773 • Attention: Audrey Sellers

All donations and all the proceeds from the sale of these items will be used to support Riverside University High School and its students.

Donation and Order Form

Enclosed is my donation in the amount of \$ _____ to support the work of the Riverside University High School Foundation in helping Riverside High School maintain its 150 Year history of Academic Excellence.

Also enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the purchase of (enter quantity for all that apply):

_____ A 150th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Cup (\$20)

_____ A Riverside High School “Tiger Paw” lapel pin (\$15)

_____ A copy of the book, “Riverside University High School, 150 Years of Academic Excellence” (\$30)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail Address: _____

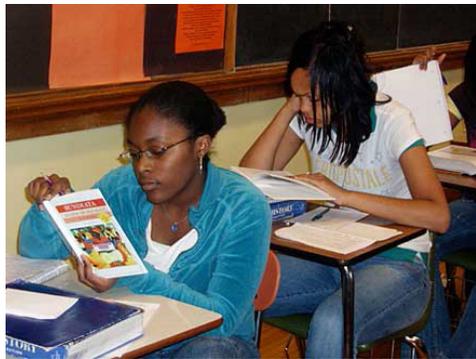
You can also go to the Foundation website at www.riversidefoundation.com and submit your donations or orders by clicking on the PayPal button.

Classroom Assistance Grants

The RUHS Foundation places an equal emphasis on raising money for both student scholarships and for grants to assist teachers in their classrooms. The Foundation recently provided such grants to eight Riverside staff members to assist them in meeting the needs of their students. With the severe budget cuts that all Milwaukee Public Schools have endured over the past several years, the district and the school were simply unable to provide the funds to support these needs so the Foundation, which is supported primarily by Riverside alumni, stepped in to fill the void. The Foundation takes applications for Classroom Assistance Grants from teachers at the beginning of each semester. A panel consisting of three Foundation Board members and one member of the teaching staff review the requests and determine which requests merit support within the amount of money the Foundation has raised for this purpose. The panel's recommendations are then promptly acted upon by the full Foundation Board and teachers are notified of the status of their requests.

Last month we provided funds to Ms. Jennifer Kringel, a guidance counselor, so that she could purchase a book that sets forth highly regarded methods for helping students build the necessary skills to regulate their behavior issues (\$40).

Ms. Whitney Gulbranson, English, was provided funds to purchase a Crayola marker box for each of the students in her English class thus providing them with an additional resource to complete their advanced English projects such as their proposed projects for their research topic.



Mr. Jakob Cychowski, English, wanted to purchase additional books for his classroom library where he works hard to encourage students to become life-long readers. He proposed a list of

thirty-seven (37) books that was developed with the assistance of his students (\$420).

Ms. Mary Zietlow, Mathematics, uses a "personalized math" approach in her teaching. All of the students in her six classes need a personal notebook for their work. The school did not have the money to support this important need. Ms. Zietlow also requested funds for the purchase of a "probability kit" for her classroom that would provide hands-on lessons in the area of mathematics probability. She also requested a projection camera that would allow her to show student work and promote classroom discussion. Due to its own limited funds for Classroom Assistance Requests, the Foundation was only able to provide Ms. Zietlow with about 86% of the funds that she needed for these worthy causes (\$370).

The pressures on Riverside teachers to maintain the high academic standards of the school are enormous. The

personalized attention they pay to each student's needs require patience, compassion and a deep commitment to help each student.



Classroom management is not always easy due to the poverty-induced psychological and emotional problems that so many students bring to the classroom. Teachers needed a place of their own in the building where they could practice self-care, where they could decompress, relax, meditate and practice mindfulness. Ms. Kringel, along with several other teachers, proposed the establishment of a "Mind Spa" for teachers. A small room was converted into such a space. It was furnished with donated furniture, some lamps, a privacy screen, a wave machine, a sound machine, curtains, a table and a mirror and it was painted (\$683).

Riverside offers a wide-range of extracurricular activities for students where they can develop their leadership skills, their inter-personal skills, their friendships as well as life-long personal health skills. Mr. James Reynolds, a Special Education teacher, has added an optional activity that would provide female students with the opportunity to participate in a Majorette team called the "Tigarettes". This team would perform at athletic and other school events as well as at community events. Participants would be required to meet good school attendance, behavior and academic standards (\$500).

A Spanish teacher, Ms. Jennifer Terry, has spent the past 18 months planning a student trip to Costa Rica. Vigorous fundraising by students fell short. The trip was in jeopardy of being cancelled. The Foundation stepped in to make sure that the trip would take place (\$1,000). A full report on the outcome of this trip will be given in a future Foundation newsletter.

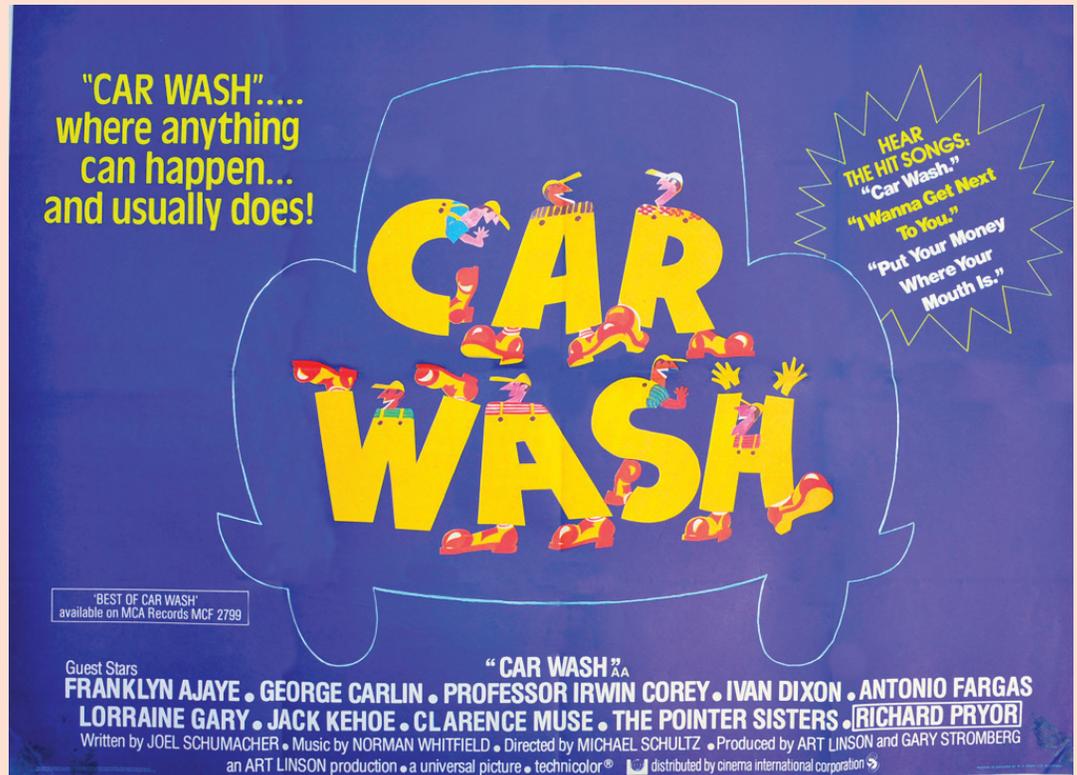
Finally, Mr. Steve Wolf, a Health teacher, requested funds for materials that students could use to fulfill the classroom requirement for creating posters on the dangers of addictions. The materials requested were a 100 foot roll of 50 pound paper and a Crayola Class Pack assortment of markers. This request was deemed valuable because it involves Riverside students sending a message to their peers about the dangers of chemicals (\$150).

Riverside teachers are dedicated and creative professionals. They take their craft seriously. They deserve our support of their work with students. We cannot allow them to become disillusioned by the lack of funding from the District and the State. We need to find ways to encourage them to unleash their wealth of professional creativity. Look at all that Riverside teachers have already done to maintain and enhance the quality of their work with their students in the face of extreme obstacles. Just imagine what these highly trained, highly motivated professional educators could accomplish with their students if they had the right tools and classroom materials to implement their ideas. We simply cannot let them down. They have earned our admiration and our support.

Alumni Update



Michael Schultz, a 1957 Riverside graduate, was recently featured in a New York Times article regarding his 1976 movie "Car Wash", which the Times referred to as a "quintessential 1970's film". Schultz's first hit movie was the coming of age drama "Cooley High". "Car Wash" was the first movie by an African American director shown at the Cannes Film Festival competition. Schultz "directed more feature-length Hollywood movies than any black director before Spike Lee". (Thanks to David Herrewig, Class of 1960, for sending us this Times article)



Support Riverside Students When You Shop at Amazon

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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.