

MOLINE ROTARY AWARDS MORE THAN \$15,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Award winners honor Rotary commitment to 'Service Above Self'

Five recently graduated Moline High School students this month will begin the next phase of their education with the assistance of more than \$15,000 in Moline Rotary Club scholarship grants.

Baylie Farmer (University of Illinois), Jolie Martinez (Drake University), and Sidney Schlitz (Augustana College) earned respective Moline Rotary Scholarship Foundation awards of \$5,000, \$3,000, and \$2,000 by exemplifying the Rotary International mantra of "Service Above Self."

In addition, newly graduated Moline High seniors Carlin Rosas and Liliana Blanford will attend Black Hawk College tuition-free through the benefit of STRIVE scholarships presented by the Moline Rotary in partnership with BHC.

Since 1996, the two Moline Rotary Club member-funded scholarship programs have awarded nearly \$300,000 in scholarship assistance to students living within Moline's borders.

"It is so helpful," said Farmer, who will major in Teacher Education with a Special Education emphasis. "College gets more and more expensive. To have a little help going into it, knowing I won't have as much of a financial burden, is great."

Farmer's passion for Special Education was inspired by a younger brother with Down's Syndrome. "He's my favorite person in the world and I think it would be so cool to be able to teach and help people just like him," she said.

The future educator was selected for this year's top award from among a strong field of applicants who carried a 3.0 or better grade-point average, participated in two or more volunteer activities in school, church and/or the community, and submitted essays explaining what "Service Above Self" means to them.

Martinez will major in Psychology at Drake. "I have always been fascinated by how Psychology worked, as a kid with my own experience, and I feel like I can make a difference," she said.

Schlitz is considering a Marketing and Business Administration major, but this year's MHS National Chorale Award winner also will continue a lifelong passion at Augustana with a minor in Theatre and Vocal Performance.

"I love them," she said of the latter disciplines. "I know for sure I'm going to continue volunteering at Music Guild as much as I possibly can. It is one of my favorite places to volunteer. And I also will still volunteer at the food pantry at my church."

In addition to numerous other MHS organizations that promote volunteerism and service, all three Moline Rotary Foundation Scholarship winners participated in the high school's Interact

Club, a Rotary International-sanctioned, youth-oriented extension of the Rotary commitment to volunteerism and community service.

“Growing the next generation of community servants is among the most important things we do as Rotarians,” said J.C. Millman, the Moline Rotary Director of Youth Services. “Helping young people like Baylie, Jolie, Sidney, Carlin, and Liliana take the next steps in their development, and doing so with a demonstrated understanding of the true meaning of ‘Service Above Self,’ is rewarding and gratifying for every member of our organization.”

Through the STRIVE Scholarship, the Moline Rotary annually provides a year of tuition and books to two students, with Black Hawk College providing a matching award. Applicants must maintain a C grade-point average or better, with a senior year GPA one point better than they had in Year One. Winners also must maintain an attendance record of 90 percent or better as seniors.