



FOUNDERS  
COMMISSION

## **FOUNDERS COMMISSION OPENS DIAMONDS SCHOLAR 2024-25 APPLICATION CYCLE**

*Post-Secondary Scholarship Opportunity Available to Area High School Students Graduating in 2025*

**ROCKFORD, Ill., September 19, 2024:** As a continuation of its commitment to giving back to the Rockford region, Founders Commission (FC) announced today that it is now accepting applications for the 2024-25 **DIAMONDS Scholar** post-secondary scholarship program.

Administered by the Founders Commission, DIAMONDS Scholar scholarships are eligible to graduating high school students from Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties. For the 2024-25 cycle, at least one scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school student who is pursuing college, university, junior college, or technical/trades post-secondary education. In alignment with the annual DIAMONDS storytelling gala as a vehicle for showcasing exemplary achievement, applicants must embody excellence in the classroom, demonstrate an ability to thrive under pressure, and show a commitment to volunteerism in the Rockford region. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.founderscommission.org/scholarships>.

“After a successful first year that drew 24 applicants, we’re very optimistic about the trajectory of this important program,” said Nick Povalitis, founder and president of Founders Commission. “With the support of our partners, we’ve been able to curate a variety of programs that directly impact the community and area youth. With one DIAMONDS Scholar already pursuing post-secondary education, we’re eager to help more graduates attain their post-secondary educational dreams.”

This year’s DIAMONDS Scholar scholarship application period is open until January 31, 2025, after which Founders Commission will conduct a formal review period before a winner is determined and announced at the next DIAMONDS storytelling gala in Spring/Summer 2025.

The DIAMONDS Scholar program was created after the inaugural DIAMONDS gala, which was held June 15, 2023, at the Emery Air North Hangar in Rockford. Net proceeds from the first DIAMONDS event yielded a donation to a local veterans nonprofit *and* seed funding to launch DIAMONDS Scholar post-secondary scholarships. During the second annual DIAMONDS on July 17, 2024, Founders Commission honored its first DIAMONDS Scholar – Faith Offermann of Winslow, IL.

“The second annual DIAMONDS gala was a success,” said Cathy Headley, board chair of the Founders Commission. “We are so proud of the efforts of the community to support our ‘DIAMONDS’. With programs like our Next Gems youth summit and DIAMONDS Scholar scholarships, we are looking to continue to shape our community for the future!”

**About Founders Commission:** A certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Founders Commission celebrates and leverages the Rockford region’s excellence and ingenuity in business, arts and entertainment, and sports for brand, economic and social good. Inspired by the region’s lineage of success tracing back to 1834 when settlers first arrived along a rocky ford, Founders Commission was established in 2023 as a charitable, educational, civic and scientific nonprofit governed by community advocates and business leaders.

**Contact:** Nick Povalitis, [Info@FoundersCommission.org](mailto:Info@FoundersCommission.org) / [Nick@PlusSevenCompany.com](mailto:Nick@PlusSevenCompany.com), 815.708.1644.

###