



60th
Annual
Awards
Ceremony



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Scholarship
News Inside
Class of 2025

It is the mission of Scholarship Foundation of Indian River County to offer **hope, encouragement and scholarship opportunities** to Indian River County students with financial need who demonstrate the desire and academic ability to succeed in pursuing a post-secondary education.

Since 1965, Scholarship Foundation has awarded more than **\$16.3M** in need-based college scholarships to **3,187 Indian River County students**. All of our support results from the generosity of local individuals, businesses and foundations.

THANK YOU!

YOUR DONATIONS once again brought joy to local high school students and their families who faced doubt about how they would be able to manage the staggering cost of college. You **unlocked opportunities** once only dreamed of. **Our community is better because of you. In the students own words...**

“For the rest of my life, I will remember how your generosity allowed me to follow my dreams.”

“SFIRC has truly opened my eyes to the idea that the scholarships are investments in our futures, and I cannot be more grateful you chose to invest in mine.”

With heartfelt gratitude, the students of Indian River County
THANK YOU!

Our goal is to help recipients graduate with little or no debt. Be it through annual giving or an endowed award, **you can make a difference.** Our Executive Director, Camilla Wainright would love to tell you more about what we do and how you can help. Please call her at 772-569-9869.



Local support for
local students
since 1965

Summer 2025

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT



47 new scholarship recipients gather at Sebastian River High School for SFIRC’s 60th Annual Awards Ceremony

Thanks to the continued **generosity and support of the Indian River County community**, Scholarship Foundation awarded **\$798,800 in new need-based scholarships** on May 12, 2025 at its 60th Annual Awards Ceremony. Forty-seven local students, including three recipients already in college and eleven high school seniors who will receive their AA degrees from IRSC this year, received 104 scholarships to study at 22 colleges and universities in six states. These awards include 5 scholarships being awarded for the first time this year. Individual awards are tailored to each student’s financial need. They **range from \$4,000 to \$30,000**, payable over the 2, 3, or 4 years each recipient plans to take to earn their undergraduate degree.

Cameron Dawson, a 2013 graduate of Vero Beach High School and recipient of SFIRC’s David M. Schuble Family Scholarship gave the alumnus address. Cameron earned his undergraduate degree in biology with a minor in Spanish from Florida State University in 2017 and a graduate degree at Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in 2022. For the past three years, he has been serving the Vero Beach community as an optometric physician. At the ceremony, Cameron reminded the college-bound students that “The road ahead won’t be easy, but it will be worth it” and urged them to “stay focused. Ask for help. Have fun. Enjoy this time in your life. And **don’t ever underestimate your ability to adapt, grow, and succeed**—even when things feel impossible.”



SFIRC Alumnus
Cameron Dawson

SFIRC Awards 60th Anniversary Scholarship

SFIRC celebrated 60 years of dreams realized on February 27, 2025 at a thank you reception attended by more than 100 donors and friends. Donations in honor of this milestone were used to fund the **SFIRC 60th Anniversary Scholarship** awarded at this year’s ceremony. Receiving the award were: **Ace Barker**, a St. Ed’s graduate who will pursue a degree in aviation management at Florida Institute of Technology; **Aleria Lester**, a Vero Beach High School graduate who will attend Florida State University with a major in biomedical engineering, and **William Mullan**, a Vero Beach High School graduate who will be attend Florida State University, majoring in mathematics.



Ace Barker, Aleria Lester, William Mullan

2025 Scholarship Awards

The Legacy, Memorial, Honorary, and Community-Sponsored scholarships awarded thanks to the remarkable, enduring generosity of Indian River County individuals, organizations and businesses over the past 60 years.

Memorial Scholarships

Ellen C. Andrews Memorial Scholarship: Lenore Carter, Betsy Perez
John Avril Memorial Scholarship: Jonathan Hartzke
Indian River Blood Bank Scholarship in Memory of Marian L. Block: Syeda Raza
Sofia Blanchard Memorial Scholarship: Juliette Rich Royall
Michael Patrick Burke Memorial Scholarship: Eric Vazquez
Thomas W. Chornoby Memorial Scholarship: Joseph Romero
Lisa Eckerd Colbourn Memorial: Lenore Carter
Darrell Fennell Memorial Scholarship: Kalea Bieber
Morris A. "Darby" Gibbons Memorial Scholarship: Gabriella Collazo
Will and Doris Jorgensen Memorial Scholarship: Mary Twomey
Will and Doris Jorgensen Memorial Scholarship for Students of the Arts: Jeanna Antinozzi
Legacy Endowment Fund Award: Jeanna Antinozzi, Kalea Bieber, Makaela Clark, D'Troit Curry, Jody Marion, Alicia Parker, Betsy Perez, Joseph Romero, Ciara Tarpey, Samantha Taylor, Eric Vazquez
Tyrone McGriff Memorial Scholarship: D'Troit Curry
Margaret McReynolds Memorial Scholarship: Samantha Taylor
Robert and Shirley Nugent Memorial: Dounia Bezzari
Franklin and JoAnn Perkins Memorial Scholarship: Rachel Kim
Danforth Kidd and Marjorie Hopwood Richardson Memorial Scholarship: Makaela Clark
Richard C. Moore Memorial Scholarship: Mia Vanantwerp
Marjory S. Seinsoth Memorial: Olivia Diaz, Jazmyn Morris, Riley Schafer
Andrzej Humberto Steyer Memorial Scholarship: Esabella Fretwell
Dr. (Hon.) Stanley Steyer and Diana Mary Steyer Award: Syeda Raza
Philip Peter Strazzulla Memorial Scholarship: Wyatt Friedberg
Karen VanDeVoorde Memorial Scholarship: Makaela Clark

Honorary and Community-Sponsored

Rene and Alice Donars Scholarship Award: Brooke Billings
Garden Club of Indian River County Award: Jody Marion
Gullquist Mullin Family Foundation Scholarship Award: Molly Rummel, Ciara Tarpey
The Herget Foundation Scholarship: Lara Davidovic
Honeywell Cobb Family Scholarship: Kalea Bieber

Indian River Blood Bank Scholarship in Honor of Samuel A. Block: Olivia Diaz
Frances and Ronald Jaffe Foundation Scholarship: Wilyana Michaud, Riley Schafer, Shiloh Spampanato
Jake Owen Foundation Scholarship Award: Jonathan Hartzke, Daniel Hutchins
Johns Island Community Service League Employee Scholarship: Derek Pickerill, Natalee Rogers
Lincoln:Chadwell Scholarship Award: Rachel Kim, Mia Vanantwerp
Litty Family Scholarship Award: Kylee Harris, Samantha Taylor
Nancy and John Luther Scholarship Award: Daniel Hutchins
John R. and Ann H. MacLean Family Nursing Scholarship: Larrah Williams
William L. and Lucy D. Marine Scholarship: Joseph Romero
Northern Trust Scholarship: Dave Vengine
Roger Larson Oak Harbor Scholarship: Juliette Rich Royall
Orchid Island Employees Scholarship: Ace Barker
Orchid Island Outreach Scholarship: Larrah Williams
Quail Valley Charities Scholarship: Dounia Bezzari, Wyatt Friedberg
Realtors Association of Indian River County Scholarship: Brooke Billings, Aria LaBarca
Richardson Scholar Award: Thomas Blais, Mayra Fajardo, Phat Ngo, Anamaria Ramirez
Rotary Clubs of Indian River County Scholarship Foundation Founders' Scholarship: Alicia Parker
David M. Schuble Family Scholarship: William Mullan
James and Jane Schwiering Family Scholarship: Isabella Eastwood
Sea Oaks H.E.L.P.: Sommer Soderman
Sengupta Family Scholarship: Sommer Soderman
Scholarship Foundation Community-Sponsored Award: Dounia Bezzari, Brooke Billings, Gabriella Collazo, Lara Davidovic, Olivia Diaz, Isabella Eastwood, Esabella Fretwell, Jonathan Hartzke, Daniel Hutchins, Rachel Kim, Jazmyn Morris, Brenda Perez, Syeda Raza, Juliette Rich Royall, Molly Rummel, Sommer Soderman, Mary Twomey, Mia Vanantwerp, Dave Vengine, Larrah Williams
SFIRC 60th Anniversary Scholarship: Ace Barker, Aleria Lester, William Mullan
Helen Sarah Steyer Award: Isabella Eastwood
Thomas M. Steyer and Helen S. Steyer Award: Betsy Perez
Thomas and Simonetta Steyer Award: Brenda Perez
VanDeVoorde Family Scholarship: Jeanna Antinozzi
Wabasso Women's Club Scholarship: Mary Twomey
Archie S. Wingfield, Jr. Scholarship: Aria LaBarca
Ellery, Jacqueline, and Frank Winters Scholarship: Jody Marion

Memorial Award Honors Scholarship Alum

The Michael Patrick Burke Memorial Scholarship


was established with memorial donations from family and friends of Michael following his unexpected death in June of 2024 at the age of 25 in Atlanta, GA. It was awarded for the first time at this year’s ceremony. The following was written by Michael’s parents and read at the ceremony.

“Michael Burke, a 2017 Frances and Ronald Jaffe Scholarship recipient, was a remarkable young man whose legacy continues to inspire. A proud graduate of St. Edward’s High School, Michael served as Senior Class President and was honored as Co-Salutatorian of his graduating class. He received the Innovator Award and the Congressional Medal of Merit. He was a multi-sport athlete and named Captain of the rowing team. He balanced leadership, scholarship, and athletics with poise, integrity, and a deep sense of purpose - qualities that shone through in every interaction. Michael was witty, sensible, and endlessly patient. But really, Michael was a kind soul.


Michael attended Georgia Tech where, in 2020, he graduated summa cum laude in just 3.5 years. He was exceptionally intelligent, endlessly curious, and deeply committed to learning. A natural scholar and a student of life, he approached the world with a sharp mind and an open heart. His patience and compassion made him a source of strength and light to everyone around him. His many friends enjoyed his sense of humor which was never cutting and always clever.

Following his passing in June 2024, the Burke Family established a memorial scholarship to honor his extraordinary life well lived. It is awarded to students who love to learn, lead with kindness, and never stop asking why. So.....Be like Mike: stay ever curious, driven, and carry empathy wherever you may go.”

This inaugural Burke Memorial was awarded to **Eric Vazquez**, a Vero Beach graduate who will attend Florida State, majoring in chemical engineering.



Michael Patrick Burke



Eric Vazquez, Burke Memorial Recipient

Four Scholars Honored with Richardson Awards

The **Richardson Scholar Award** was established by Dan and Marge Richardson in the 1980’s to inspire, recognize and support college-bound students who attain the highest standards of academic, leadership and service excellence. To be considered for the award, applicants must demonstrate significant financial need as well as excellence in academics, community service and leadership. Nancy Richardson Luther presented the 2025 awards to SRHS’s **Thomas Blais**, who will attend the University of Central Florida and major in mechanical engineering while also pursuing an interest in film; John Carroll’s **Mayra Fajardo**, who will attend FSU and major in criminal justice and business management; VBHS’s **Phat Ngo**, who will attend Emory University with a major in finance and economics; and VBHS’s **Anamaria Ramirez**, who will also attend Emory, with a major in chemistry and human health to fulfill her passion toward helping others.

Committed Donors and Alumni Fund New Scholarships


Scholarship Foundation is extremely grateful to all our Donors, Scholarship Sponsors and Alumni who continue to support our mission and efforts toward helping students go to college. We couldn’t do it without you.

Rene and Alice Donars Scholarship Award


The **Rene and Alice Donars Scholarship** was awarded for the first time this year. Supporters of Scholarship Foundation since 2020, the Donars want to make a direct impact on the life of a graduating student by establishing this named award. It was presented to **Brooke Billings**, a graduate of Indian River Charter High School. She will attend Stetson University to prepare for a planned career in marketing.

Lincoln:Chadwell Scholarship


The **Lincoln:Chadwell Scholarship** was established in 2024 and was awarded for the first time this year. Wanda Lincoln, a graduate of the University of Michigan with degrees in political science and teaching, is passionate about helping the children in our community. A teacher and co-author of dozens of books she consulted all over the world. She and her husband, Richard Chadwell, who died in December 2019, moved to Vero Beach almost 20 years ago. It didn’t take them long to become ingrained in our community. A founding member of Quail Valley Club, Wanda has been the Chair of the Quail Valley Charities committee which awards grants to the more than 40 local non-profit charities. Long a support of SFIRC, she wanted to provide more impact by establishing this award which will support students seeking degrees in nursing or education as well as students from first responder families.



Nancy Richardson Luther (c) with 2025 Richardson Scholars (l-r) Phat Ngo, Anamaria Ramirez, Thomas Blais and Mayra Fajardo



Brooke Billings



Sponsor Wanda Lincoln with Mia Vanantwerp (l) and Rachel Kim (r)


Two Sebastian River High School students, both of whom will continue their education at the University of Central Florida, received the award: **Mia Vanantwerp**, who will major in elementary education and **Rachel Kim** who will major in biomedical sciences.

Franklin and JoAnn Perkins Memorial Scholarship

The **Franklin and JoAnn Perkins Memorial Scholarship** was established by Franklin Perkins, Jr. and his sister Suzanne Perkins in memory of their parents. Both Franklin, Jr., now a philosophy professor at the U. of Hawaii, and Suzanne, a health care executive in Boca Raton, were VBHS graduates and scholarship recipients. Franklin received the Richardson Scholarship in 1988 and Suzanne was awarded the Charles and Virginia Wollenzin Scholarship in 1990. As successful professionals, they wanted to “give back” by establishing this award in memory of their mother, who died in 2004 and their father, who died in 2023.

Remembering the positive feelings and emotions at their own Awards Ceremonies years ago, they chose to present this year’s award together. Franklin and his wife Rachel traveled from Hawaii and Suzanne and her husband John traveled from Boca to participate in this year’s 60th Annual event.

The award went to **Rachel Kim**, who also received the **Lincoln:Chadwell Scholarship**. Scholarship Foundation awards are tailored to meet each recipient’s unmet need, as determined by the cost of their colleges less their family’s resources, college and federal grants and other scholarship support they will receive.



Scholarship Alums Franklin Perkins, Jr. and Suzanne Perkins with recipient Rachel Kim