



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blandin Foundation Education Grants awarded to 375 local students

GRAND RAPIDS, Minn. (July 16, 2015) – Blandin Foundation recently shared with 375 Itasca area students that they have been awarded grants of up to \$4,000 for their education after high school, better putting higher education within financial reach.

The total amount awarded for 2015-16, \$1,006,400, is the largest amount the Foundation has ever awarded in a single year.

“Our education grant program has a strong and important history with Itasca area communities,” said Dr. Kathleen Annette, CEO of the Blandin Foundation. “For 59 years we have worked with area students to help achieve their dreams of further education. Achievement of our young people was a great passion of Mr. Blandin’s, as it is for the Foundation still today. We stand with each student as they pursue their educational goals.”

Education grants are available for education after high school, including college and university, community and technical colleges, and certificate programs.

Awards are made on a needs-based system. Grant amounts are based on the federal government’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) formulas, and are intended to close the final gap between what already is available to the student and what it’s going to take to achieve their dream.

Students who graduated from the following high schools qualify: Bigfork, Blackduck, Chief Bug-o-Nay-ge-Shig, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Greenway, Hill City, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Northern Lights Community School, Northome, Northland - Remer. Home-schooled students in the greater Itasca County area also are eligible. All students are eligible until age 25, even if they have not received an Education Grant in the past.

Applications for the 2016-2017 school year open January 2, 2016. Deadline to apply is always May 1. Students must reapply each year.

Education Grants are Blandin Foundation’s longest-running program, with the first awards given in 1956 by founder Charles K. Blandin. Since then, more than 15,000 area young adults have received grants totaling more than \$23 million. For more on the program, visit the Foundation’s website, www.blandinfoundation.org, or join the Education Grants Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/322961874388140/?ref=br_tf

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Located in Grand Rapids, Minn., Blandin Foundation is one of only a handful of foundations in the U.S. focused exclusively on rural communities and the largest rural-based private foundation in Minnesota. The Foundation seeks and supports vibrant rural Minnesota communities.

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