

Dear Rankin Foundation Friends -

Thank You!

It is April, Volunteer Appreciation Month. As I just read through the list of Rankin Foundation Volunteers, I am truly touched by how many of you give of your precious time, talent, and treasure to deliver this important mission. It takes a village to **transform futures through education**.

Thank You for being part of our village!

Karen



CEO, Jeannette Rankin Foundation

Betsy Bach 2024 Volunteer of the Year

Thank You Thank You Thank You Betsy Bach! Betsy Bach of Missoula MT, is our Volunteer of the Year - 2024. Betsy has been a critical part of the Rankin Team since she joined us in 2016. Betsy and CEO Karen Sterk went to college together and were both first-term presidents of their sorority (early leadership training.) Betsy helped Karen get her first post-college job then moved West and, unfortunately, lost touch. Fast forward to 2016 when Karen visited Washington D.C. and took a picture with the Jeannette Rankin statue in the Capital, one of only two women statues there.

[Click here to continue reading](#)

VALERIE PIRES Rankin Scholar

We are proud to share that Rankin Scholar Valerie Pires was awarded Columbia University's Pat Anderson Prize in Film Criticism and has been accepted into the Columbia School of Journalism graduate program! Valerie is graduating this spring with a B.A. in Film and Media Studies.

Valerie has been on her own since age 16, entering the world of video production and journalism as a young woman. After a major health challenge, she decided to go to college, something her tumultuous adolescence had made impossible. We congratulate Valerie on realizing her educational dreams!





Volunteer of the Year

2024 - Betsy Bach

2023 - Dorothy & Jim Newland

2022 - Valerie Bell

2021 - Libby Pollock

2020 - Lisa Nunez

2019 - Jinx Patel

2018 - Bill Loughner

Thank You Rankin Volunteers

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION READERS

LEVEL 1:

Adria Pierce

Alex Phuong

Alice Chow

Angela Razz

Angela Kornman

Anissa Johnson

Benita Peek

Berteena Rollins

Beth Heitner

Beth Jetha

Cara Benfield

Caroline Trapp

[Click here to see the full list of volunteers](#)



Jinx Patel Named Athens Area Chamber Citizen of the Year

Athens Area Chamber of Commerce has recognized Virginia "Jinx" Patel as its 2023 Upshaw Bentley Citizen of the Year. Honored at the Chamber's 120th Annual Meeting in March, Patel was nominated by the Rankin Foundation and was celebrated for her outstanding service to the Athens community.

"Jinx Patel has been, and continues to be, an essential component of the fabric we call 'Athens.'

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GREAT FORCE Steering Committee

Rozy Park - Chair
Elissa Perry
Dot Christianson
Lori Warden
LaToro Yates
Jinx Patel
Michael Purser
Sue Lawrence
Suzy Wong
Sylvia Hillyard Panell
Vashti Canty



Jeannette Rankin Legacy Lecture - March 13, 2024

We welcomed Dr. Sandra Boham, President of Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, Montana, as our featured speaker at this year's Jeannette Rankin Legacy Lecture at the University of Georgia. We invite you to watch the insightful lecture about culture and education.

[Click here to view the video of the lecture.](#)

[Rankin Legacy Lecture Flickr Album](#)

Rankin Foundation Board Retreat March 15 & 16

Alecia Bailey | Betsy Bach - Board Chair
Charmaine E Wilson | Dimples Williamson
Genie Snyder Chamberlin
J. Maria Waters | Jacqueline Smalley
Jane Hale Hopkins | Judith Gil
Kate Shanley | Kimberly Reeve
Kunal Verma | LaToro Yates
LettyAshworth | Madeline Van Dyck
Robin Walls | Rozy Park - Vice Chair
Stacy Sollenberger | Tracy Cosgrove
Vashti Canty | Wendy Miller

[Rankin Board of Directors
Retreat Flickr Album](#)



STAR Party Co-Chairs

Betsy Bach
Genie Snyder
Jacqueline Smalley
Kimberly Reeve
LaToro Yates
Lori Warden
Rozy Park
Vashti Canty



**Jeannette Rankin
FOUNDATION**

Transforming Futures Through Education