

The



Files

Dear Rankin Foundation Friends,

We LOVE our Volunteers! April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. We are happy to report that 155 of you stepped up just this past month to be Volunteer Application Readers. You do the critically important job of determining who the incoming Rankin Scholars will be. We call it "the wisdom of crowds." One person alone may not make the perfect decision, but with an average of 10 Volunteer Application Readers touching each application, together, we make the very best decision possible for the new class of Rankin Scholars. It takes a village.

Thank You for being a part of our Village!

Karen Sterk
CEO, Rankin Foundation

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Vashti Canty

Congratulations to Vashti Canty, the Rankin Foundation Volunteer of the Year. Vashti is the incoming Chair (June) of the Rankin Board of Directors and has been a dedicated board member for the past seven years. She has also served on the GREAT FORCE Steering Committee for five years and as the Atlanta STAR Party Chair for the past four years — including this year. Across every role, Vashti has consistently shown up for Rankin Scholars with care, commitment and purpose.

In her professional capacity, Vashti serves as the Manager of Learning Strategy at Delta Air Lines. Her work focuses on building organizational cultures where people feel a deep sense of belonging, barriers to access and opportunity are removed and communities are strengthened through intentional action. Through this lens, Vashti bridges learning, equity and social impact to help individuals and organizations thrive.

Reflecting this commitment, Vashti arranged for the full Rankin Board and Staff to participate in Groundwater Training, an equity and systems-change program led by the Groundwater Institute. The experience deepened collective understanding of historical context, systemic inequities and the role organizations play in advancing equitable outcomes for all — directly supporting Rankin's priorities and broader mission.

Vashti's service is grounded in a deep belief in advancing equity, creating pathways to opportunity and building supportive communities — values that align seamlessly with Rankin's mission to transform futures through education. Her leadership exemplifies what it means to pair strategy with heart and purpose with action.

We are profoundly grateful for Vashti's leadership, generosity, and unwavering support.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION READERS

LEVEL 1

Alex Andy Phuong
Amy Brimmer
Amy Cason
Amy Matthey
Angela Kornman
Angela Mays
Angelina Ojeda
Anissa Johnson
Anita Kendrick
Ashlee Guest
Bailey Meadows
Barbara Redman
Berteena Rollins
Beth Jetha
Cara Benfield
Carrie Beyers
Christine Bavetta
Cindy Charles
Danielle Dubois
Deborah Robinson
Deihdra Miller
Demetrius Crooms
Dimples Williamson
Doug Gerrard
Elana Giallonardo
Elizabeth A. Lance
Emily Ferguson-Steger
Emily Hu
Faye Stanley
Gail Buccino
GiGi Don Diego
Jacqie Lind
Jeanette Morgan
Jeff Wagnitz
Jen Welborn
Judith Gil
Julia McCune
Julie Heath
Kanika McKerson
Karen Andrews-Carter
Karen M. Picciolo
Katina Jaynes
Kellie Rohner
Kelly Campos
Kendyl Barney
Kenyata Tate
Kim Ranger
Kristin Nielsen
Kristina Cromer
Kwanesia Bass

Latanya Simmons
Laura McGowan
Laurie Thomas
Lesa Clark
Leslie August
Lisa Andrews
Lisa Galloway
Lisa Walker
Luiza Nelson
Margie McBride
Maria Krane
Marian Berger
Martha Artyomenko/Hurley
Mary-Kay Harrity
Mayerlyn Rivera
Melanie Perez
Michelle Breashears
Michelle Covi
Misty Henson
Mitch Lang
Monica Bomani
Nakia Ford
Nancy Roth
Nicky Leonard
Patricia Rohrer
Patty Lopez
Paula Huntley
Peggy Kreshel
Rags DeFranks
Rebecca Young
Roberta Goldman
Roxanne Thompson
Sandra Small
Sara Nickels
Sarah Gideonse
Shiloh Elisabeth
Sonia Yancey
Sonya Patel
Stacy Sheets
Starla Ross
Suzanne Taipala
Tanya Perkins
Theresa Moore-Wheeler
Tina Hughes
Tracy White
Tricia Graff
Wendy Venet
Yadira Rivera-Cintron
Yalixa De La Cruz
Yashi Lucas
Yolie Acosta

LEVEL 2

Cheryl Coleman
Cindy Blair
Donna Brumby
Dot Christenson
Elizabeth Aley
Gregory Gullette
Heather Johnson
Herb Adams West
Jan M. Edler
Jenna E. Andrews-Swann
Jennifer A. Jackson
Karen Stark
Lequisha Molette
Linda Keller
Lisa Nunez
Liz Pavey
Lori Pyle
Lynn Knasel
MacKenzie Smith
Mary Wolf
Michelle Bailey
Myrna Adams West
Patty Toenies
Rachael Barlow
Rhonda Suka
Rozy Park
Ruth Elizabeth Conine Nakano
Vickie Rickards
Yolonda Patterson

LEVEL 3

Angela Dyb
Angela Roffle
Kathryn Hall
Lisa Nunez
Mimi Sodhi
Monica Nixon
Paula Halbert
Roberta Merkle
Roland Adams
Ruth Bettendorf
Sue Lawrence
Vicki Connell

TRIBAL REVIEWERS

Christi Bell
J. Maria Waters
Jamie Murphy
Jim Schuster
Karen Njenga
Kimberly Keegan
Margaret Ryder
Nichelle Evans
Rosamond White

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

RANKIN APPLICANTS

Tell Their Story

It is always inspiring to read applications for the Rankin Scholar Grant. If we could, we would give every one of the applicants a Scholar Grant. While that is not yet possible (we are working on it), let us share a few quotes from this year's Level Two applicants. Rankin Readers have a tough job to do!

Tara

"This a quote that has resonated with me deeply when I am faced with difficult decisions: 'Choose your hard.' I could choose to remain in debt, being limited to lower positions, and struggling to keep bringing stability to our home. Or I could choose to go to school, work for straight As, earn a degree and improve our situation."

Marie

"Every class I complete and every milestone I reach is proof that my past does not define my limits. Through education, I am building confidence, purpose, and a future rooted in service and stability."

I want to show others that where you start does not determine how far you can go. Through my education, I am not only transforming my own life, but also creating a ripple effect of hope, strength, and possibility for my family and my community."

Jeannie

"Beyond grades or transcripts, what I value most is the example I'm setting for my children: that it's never too late to start again, that progress matters more than speed, and that education can be both an act of self-respect and of service. This journey has reshaped my sense of what's possible, and I'm proud to be living that lesson in real time."

FUEL THE DREAMS OF

Rankin Moms



When moms pursue their dreams, the impact reaches far beyond themselves. This Mother's Day, you can give the **gift of education that transforms generations.**

Like Ruth Hallows, most Rankin Scholars are moms — 75% of whom are single heads of their households, balancing school, work and parenting with little room for setbacks.

Ruth went back to school — to show her children what's possible.

Your gift helps more moms do the same.

With the unrestricted funding of a Rankin Foundation Scholar Grant and wraparound support, Ruth is completing her bachelor's degree. While creating a better life for her family, she seeks to advance culturally grounded health solutions in her community.

Meet Ruth when she learned she had been selected as a Rankin Scholar:



Ruth Hallows Scholar Video

RankinFoundation



Watch on  YouTube

Your support makes these dreams possible.

Celebrate Mother's Day with a financial gift to the Rankin Foundation!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, **your gift now through May 31 will be matched up to a total of \$50,000** — doubling your impact in this milestone 50th year of the Rankin Foundation.

Thank you for giving the gift of education and dreams fulfilled this Mother's Day!

P.S. [Remember every dollar you give becomes two!](#)

GIVE NOW