

The



Files

Dear Rankin Foundation friends,

Thank You for **transforming futures through education!** As we celebrate 50 years of impact, your support is truly the wind beneath Rankin Scholars' wings.

As part of the Rankin community, here is what you made possible during the past fiscal and school year:

You supported **400** Scholars achieving their academic dreams. This remarkable group of **202** National Scholars and **198** Tribal Scholars navigated increasingly challenging circumstances. In spite of increased headwinds, the Scholars' Persistence Rate held strong at 94% (compared to the national average of 31% for this demographic), with **115** Rankin Scholars graduating and **261** continuing their studies!

The Rankin Resiliency/Emergency Fund provided over **\$130,000** in support — the highest amount we've ever provided. Of that total, **\$74,000** replaced SNAP benefits during the government shutdown for Scholars who receive food assistance. Through 46 individual requests, we helped fix cars, replace tires, pay utilities and avoid evictions. We are incredibly grateful for all of you who specifically support this fund and help Scholars stay enrolled despite unexpected financial and life hurdles.

Program Director LaTrena Artist did an amazing job leading the expanded Scholar Support Team. We hired our fourth Scholar Support Specialist, Shiloh Elisabeth, a Rankin Scholar Alum based in Newnan, GA. Each Support Specialist now has a caseload of 100 Scholars.

We also had the opportunity to share the inspiring story of Jeannette Rankin on the [Winning the Earthquake book tour](#) with author Lorissa Rinehart. As the first major biography of Jeannette, Lorissa's remarkable book offers an intimate and richly detailed portrait drawn in part from hundreds of hours of Ted Harris' recorded interviews with Jeannette preserved at the University of Georgia's Russell Library. The book tour included stops in Missoula, Helena and Great Falls, Montana; Athens and Atlanta, GA (three events); NYC (three events); and DC (three events), with Cincinnati scheduled on August 5. [Check out our book tour sizzle reel video here.](#)

We topped the year off with our first-ever **Jeannette Rankin Contest** with Jeannette Rankin Elementary in Missoula, Montana. Eighty-four 5th graders created projects interpreting Jeannette’s legacy, culminating in a school assembly featuring the six winners. [Watch their interviews and see their projects here.](#)

We accomplished this all with your wonderful time, talent and treasure. With you by our side, we look forward to welcoming the new class of Rankin Scholars and celebrating our 50th anniversary at the 2026 STAR Party this fall!

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts!



Karen Sterk
CEO, Rankin Foundation

CLASS OF 2026-27
New Rankin Scholars

Adele F.	Gabriela A.G.	Marquita W.
Aileen L.	Heather L.	Martha S.
Alesha B.	Heidi B.	Martina R.
Alyssa J.	Holly W.	Mayloni C.
Amanda C.	Holly K.	Melanie Ann D.
Amanda A.	Iliana F.	Melissa I.
Amber F.	Jackie M.	Melissa H.
Andrea R.	Jamie F.	Michelle C.
Andrea R.	Jenna H	Michelle J.
Andrea E.	Jenna M.	Michelle S.
Angel B.	Jenna M.	Mihaela Elena C.
Angela B.	Jennifer R.	Miklena M.
Angela B.	Jennifer F.	Monisha (Mo) P.
Angela S.	Jennifer P.	Nanea A.
Angeles A.	Jennifer J.	Natalia A.
Ariell T.	Jessica S.	Nelya S.
Ashley P.	Joana C.	Ni’vy F.
Ashley W.	Justuce Y.	Oriana A.
Caroline P.	Kailee R.	Rochelle Y.
Carolyn G.	Kallista W.	Saima S.
Carrie E.	Kassie P.	Samantha R.
Chelbey L.	Katherine C.	Sarah S.
Cheyenne D.	Katherine W.	SaRaya H.
Christine D.	Kayla H.	Sarita E.
Courtney M.	Kelda H.	Savannah H.
Courtney K.	Kelly M.	Shale B.
Dani R.	Kenya M.	Shannon E.
Danielle D.	Kristina T.	Stevie S.
Daphne B.	Kylee D.	Theresa P.
Darcy V.	Leiani D.	Tiffany D.
Darlene B.	Lenora W.	Tiffany M.
DeAnne S.	Lindsey C.	Valerie Q.
Devan N.	Lori S.	Venessa L.
Domaneek C.	Lorraine B.	Veronica L.
Eldrea L.	Lynette Z.	Victoria Y.
Erin S.	Mahogany T.	Zale S.
Faye R.	Majenta S.	Zaria D.



YOU'RE INVITED

STAR Party 2026, our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

Across the county, we will gather - in person and virtually - to celebrate five extraordinary decades empowering women. Join us!

ATHENS

Thursday, Sept. 17
11 am – 1 pm EDT
1055 Barber
1055 Barber St.
Athens, GA

MISSOULA

Thursday, Oct. 8
5:30 – 7 pm MDT
University Center
Ballroom
UM, Missoula, MT

NEW YORK

Thursday, Oct. 22
7 – 9 pm EDT
Queensyard
Garden Room
20 Hudson Yards,
New York, NY

VIRTUAL

Thursday, Oct. 22
7:45 – 9 pm EDT
Livestream

[RSVP HERE](#)

[RSVP HERE](#)

[RSVP HERE](#)

[RSVP HERE](#)

Thank You STAR Party Sponsors

We are grateful to our sponsors and their generous support of Rankin Scholars. There is still time to make an impact and sponsor STAR Party 2026. [Learn more here.](#)

PRESENTING SPONSOR



ASSURANT®

GALAXY



synchrony
FINANCIAL

MILKYWAY



KAREN STERK & RON WARREN



MELANIE & STEVE HOLLIS



SUE BAILEY

CONSTELLATION



BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana



SUPER NOVA



JINX & GORDON PATEL

LIZ PAVEY

MICHELE OZUMBA



clearwater
CREDIT UNION

UPWARD
PUBLIC RELATIONS



First American
Bank & Trust

LASHAWN CARTWRIGHT

MADELINE & PHILIP VAN DYCK

SUE LAWRENCE



GOOD FOOD
STORE



LAQUANDA PRINCE

MARGARET HOLT

VASHTI CANTY

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Paul Vaughn, Murray and Janice Ritland Fund

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Murray and Janice Ritland Fund and the leadership of Paul Vaughn, we met our \$50,000 spring match challenge!

Combined with the gifts of every donor who responded to our spring appeal, the match generated \$100,000 in support for Rankin Scholars. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made this possible. Click the link below to watch a special message from Paul!

[WATCH HERE](#)