



Scholarship Fund Purpose

The Ronald Simmons' Good Trouble Education Scholarship was established in 2024. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to any Winnebago County high school graduate (regardless of whether their graduation is coming soon or they graduated at some time in the past), who is seeking to pursue higher education through accredited undergraduate, community college, trade or vocational schools.

Criteria

Applicants must have residence in Winnebago County and be a permanent resident of the United States Applicants must be completing or have completed high school with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA, They must be accepted as a student at an accredited *college, university, vocational, or trade school* program for the upcoming academic semester. Applicants must demonstrate financial need by providing documentation that their household income does not exceed $65000 and/or applicant qualifies for Pell Grant assistance. Applicants must submit a Scholarship Application and a 150-250 word essay.

Scholarship Fund Purpose

The Ron Simmons' Good Trouble Education Scholarship was established in 2024. The mission of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to Winnebago County high school graduates seeking to pursue higher education through accredited undergraduate, community college, trade or vocational schools.



2026 Scholarship Recipients

Areas that are reviewed by the Scholarship Fund Committee include, but are not limited to the following: Academic Accomplishments, Community Service, References, Personal Essay, and In-person Interview *(Finalists Only)*. Scholarship funds are paid directly to the school/ organization.



Teacher Ron with Students

Ron Simmons was born in Louisville, Kentucky. As a child, Mr. Simmons' parents valued education, and he has carried the mission of helping others complete high school and higher education as his own core value. In June 1963, he graduated from Louisville Central High School, then attended Morehouse College, Clark College, and Morris Brown College where he obtained his degree in Biology and Chemistry. In addition to being a 60-year member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Mr. Simmons is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After graduating, he relocated to Rockford and worked as the first Black Research Chemist for Dean Foods from 1967-2002.



Fraternity Tradition

As a leader and educator in the Rockford community for over 45 years, Mr. Simmons supported the advancement of youth education in a variety of ways to include serving on Rockford's NAACP Youth Division, supporting the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) for over 13+ years, and serving as a Rock Valley College Elevate GED Instructor (15 years) and Rock Valley College Continuing Education teacher for Food Sanitation. Mr. Simmons' hopes that this scholarship will aid in making higher education obtainable for youth in Winnebago County.

2026 Scholarship Recipients

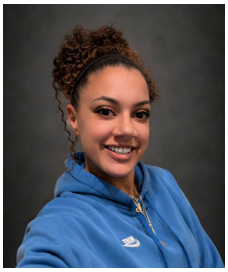
Mark Ricks

Rock Valley College



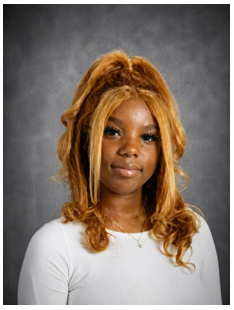
Amber Bryant

Grand Canyon University



N'Diya Hopkins

College of Lake County



Luke Zimmerman

Rock Valley College



Tim Nabors

Northern Illinois University



Royal Whitmore

Rockford University



Amari Gibbs-Logan

Rockford Career College



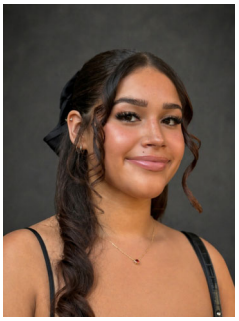
Alyana Diaz

Rock Valley College



Nadia Barbour

North Carolina A&T University



Madison Owens

Northern Illinois University



CRITERIA

Applicants must live in Winnebago County and be a permanent resident of the USA. You must be completing or have completed high school with a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA. You must be accepted or enrolled as a student at an accredited college, university, vocational, or trade school program for the upcoming academic semester. Applicants must submit a scholarship application to the Scholarship Fund Committee. Finalists will be invited to an interview.

PROVIDE

- Completed form.
- High school transcript.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A 150-250 word essay.
- Acceptance letter from an accredited college, university, vocational or trade school.

"Let us, then, be up and doing, With a heart for any fate; Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait"

-Henry Longfellow

Zion is a Mosaic Community sharing the grace of Christ!

BOARD OF DIRECTOR

Jeffrey Carlson
Valerie Ferguson
Yolanda Golden
Kimberly Haley
Jane Lightcap
Monique McClurge
Deetra Sallis
Ronald Simmons
Pastor Michael Thomas

DONATIONS

Please contact Zion Lutheran Church to donate or fill out an application. You can go to our website to donate or mail check made out to Zion Lutheran Church.

Please mail checks to:
Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue
Rockford, IL 61104
www.zionrockford.com

Please contact Zion Lutheran Church for an application or go to our website to download.

Zion Lutheran Church
925 Fifth Avenue - Rockford, IL 61104
www.zionrockford.com