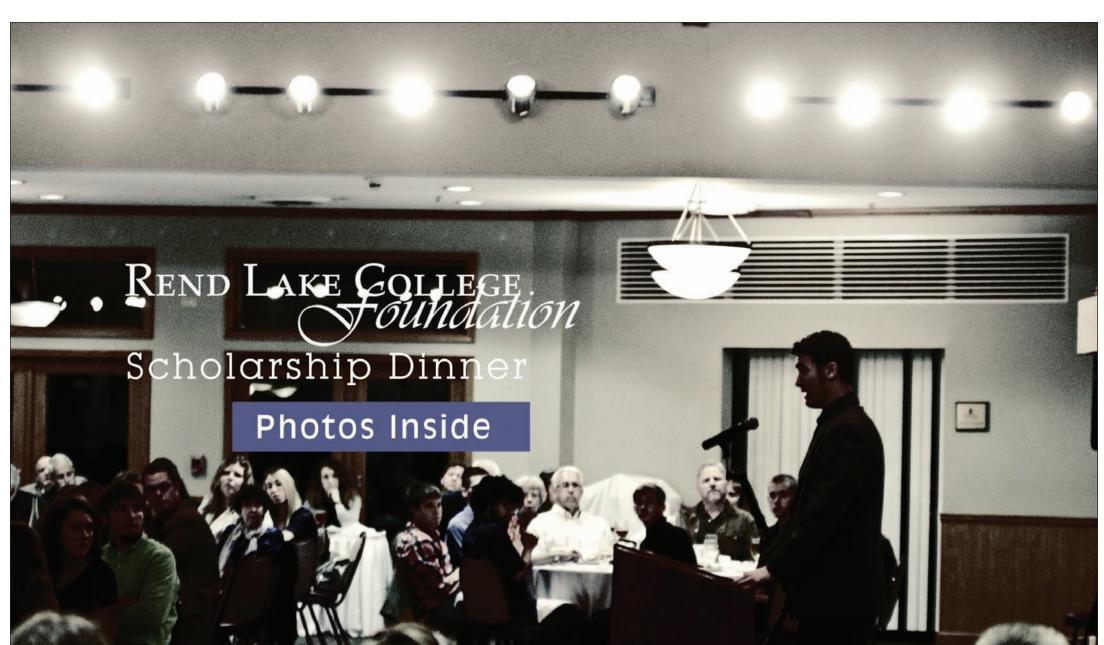


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SCHOLARSHIP STORY — Rend Lake College student Austin Endicott of Macedonia speaks at the 2014 RLC Foundation Scholarship Dinner. Endicott talked about the scholarship he received this year from the State Bank of Whittington and how it has helped make his education possible. His journey started when he was a senior in high school, living on a friend's couch and with no mentors to help him reach his goals. Find more photos from the event inside this week's Clocktower Chronicle. (Nathan Wheeler / RLC Public Information)

Foundation to students: Scholarships are within reach

<u>BY SHELBY PATTERSON</u>

CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE STAFFWRITER s cold weather quickly approaches, so does the scholarship and financial aid season.

Starting in January each calendar year, colleges and universities across the country urge students to submit a FAFSA form and apply for scholarships for the upcoming school year. One of the worries students and parents share when facing college is how to pay for it.

Rend Lake College offers a variety of different scholarships to assist students finan-

cially, in order to help them achieve their goals and dreams.

Shawna Bullard, CEO of the Rend Lake College Foundation, stated that the Foundation has awarded more than \$350,000 in scholarships so far this year. That amount covers all of the different types of scholarships: annuals, endowments, challenge grants, and outside scholarships. She also said that there will be more added throughout the school

To some students, the application process can be overwhelming. Some students

choose not to apply because of the wide number of students already applying — thinking their own chances of receiving a scholarship are slim. Bullard said it's a common misconception.

"If students apply via the online application available on RLC's website, the chances are actually pretty good," Bullard stated. "As long as the students make sure they have the two accompanying requirements - a letter of recommendation and a transcript — and have filled out the application completely, their chances are strong. When we flip through

the binders of applications after scholarship award season, more applicants have scholarships than those who don't."

When asked about what is needed to check off the list when applying for scholarships, Bullard responded, "I would really recommend that students get their scholarship application in by the deadline, which is the end of February each year. We start awarding pretty much immediately after that date. Students need to fill out the application completely. And, yes, fill in the answers."

Bullard and her staff, along

with donors, read through the applications. She said they are less likely to award a scholarship to a student who doesn't take the time to answer questions about career goals and financial need.

"Even if you don't have one, write something explaining that," she suggested. "Also, get your letter of recommendation and transcript in to accompany your application. Letters of recommendation can come from any adult who can give a recommendation to your charac-

Foundation continues on page 4

Top 10 - The week's most popular current songs and albums across all genres. (www.billboard.com)

SONGS (WEEK OF NOV. 8)

(1) "All About That Bass" - Meghan Trainor (2) "Shake it Off" - Taylor Swift (3) "Habits Stay High" - Tove Lo (4) "Bang Bang!" - Ariana Grande, Jessie J & Nicki Minaj (5) "Animals" - Maroon 5

(6) "Black Widow" - Iggy Azalea (7) "Don't Tell Em" - Jeremiah (8) "Hot Boy" - Bobby Shmurda (9) "Take Me To Church" - Hozier (10) "Stay With Me" - Sam Smith

ALBUMS (WEEK OF NOV. 8)

(1) "The Gray Chapter" - Slipknot (2) "Paperwork" - T.I. (3) "Melody Road" - Neil Diamond

(4) "Under Pressure" - Logic (5) "Anything Goes" - Florida Georgia Line (6) "Old Boots New Dirt" - Jason Aldean (7) "Pain Killer" - Little Big Town (8) "Partners" - Barbra Streisand

(9) "That's Christmas to me" - Pentatonix (10) "Nostalgia" - Annie Lennox

NEW ALBUMS THIS WEEK (NOV. 8) "They Promised You Mercy" - Amelia Curran "Xen" - Arca, "Wavefunction" - Arrica Rose

> Entertainment continues on page 3

Criminal Justice Scholarship Roundup gets big donations



Student speaker Evelyn Mendez of Benton thanked her parents, scholarship donors, and instructor Ron Meek for the experiences and successes she has had in the **RLC Criminal Justice** program. Mendez said her biggest career goal is to join the FBI. (ReAnne Palmer / RLC **Public Information)**

BY REANNE PALMER RLC PUBLIC INFORMATION

ith two \$1,000 donations on the books, this years Criminal Justice Roundup for Scholarships fundraiser is deemed the most successful yet for students in Rend Lake College's program. **RLC Foundation CEO**

Shawna Bullard presented a \$1,000 matching check to Criminal Justice Instructor Ron Meek. The check, from an anonymous Foundation donor, matches a \$1,000 donation from Doug Hoffman, Jefferson County States Attorney, for scholarships to the pro-

The event was hosted at the Rend Lake Resort on Oct. 27 by Meek and Chief Judge Michael McHaney of the Illinois Fourth Judicial Circuit. McHaney first addressed the students and applauded them for

their hard work. "There is a reason Rend

Scholarship continues on page 4

Couch to college: RLC student overcoming adversity with a little help from friends

TI'ERRE HARRIS & NATHAN WHEELER CLOCKTOWER CHRONICLE

ustin Endicott's road to success hasn't been such an easy one. The recipient of this year's State Bank of Whittington Scholarship to Rend Lake College was a guest speaker at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner, Oct. 13 at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. The annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support.

Years before he started his collegiate studies, Endicott was learning lessons of self-reliance and living with



Austin Endicott

drug abuse - far too young for either.

"There were many days that I went hungry as a

Help ••••• continues on page 4

INSIDE:

Scholarship Pictures. 2-3



Adam Lee Lorance Memorial Art Scholarship/Alyssa Dawn Lorance **Memorial Theatre Scholarship**

Numerous scholarship donors met and dined with Rend Lake College student recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are scholarship representative Peggy Davis, Adam Lee Lorance Memorial Art Scholarship recipient William Kimble and Alyssa Dawn Lorance Memorial Theatre Scholarship recipient Shelby Patterson.

Rend Lake College Clocktower Chronicle

LuAnn Droege, Senior Editor, Centralia Sentinel Nathan Wheeler, Editor, Rend Lake College

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AMVETS Sadsacks #10 Scholarship Numerous scholarship donors met and dined with Rend Lake College student recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are scholarship representative Joe Norris and scholarship recipient Emily Likens. Scholarship recipient Breanna Davis is not pictured.



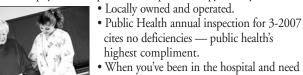
Ann Parker Memorial Scholarship

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Andrea K. Boucher **Memorial Scholarship**

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Betty Jo Herbert Nursing Scholarship Numerous scholarship donors met and dined with Rend Lake College student recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are scholarship representative Betty Jo Herbert and scholarship recipient Myranda Epplin.



Brad & Brian Evilsizer Memorial Scholarship

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Benton Lions Club Scholarship

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Brandon Dame Memorial Scholarship Numerous scholarship donors met and dined with Rend Lake College student recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are scholarship representative Cindy VanHorn and scholarship recipient Rachel Marlo.



Brian C. Fleri Memorial Scholarship Numerous scholarship donors met and dined with Rend Lake College student recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are scholarship representative Bill Fleri, scholarship recipient Chad Clark and scholarship representative Teresa Fleri.



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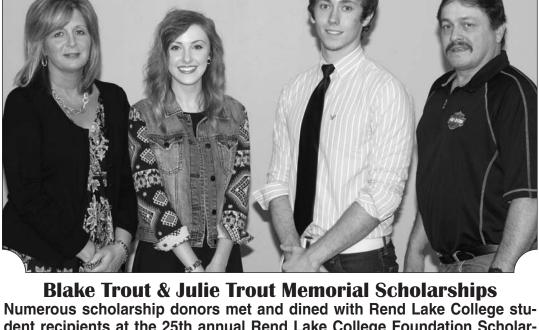
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dent recipients at the 25th annual Rend Lake College Foundation Scholarship Dinner held October 13, 2014, at the Rend Lake Resort in Whittington. This annual event honors the financial support from donors as well as the students who receive that support. Pictured are, FROM LEFT, scholarship representative Vickie Trout, Julie Trout Memorial Scholarship recipient Jaci Pelaez, Blake Trout Memorial Scholarship recipient Matthew Breeze and scholarship representative Rickey Trout.

Entertainment .. continued from page 1

"Motion" - Calvin Harris "Black Metal"- Dean Blunt "La Isla Bonita" - Deerhoof "Songs" - Deptford Goth "Stateless" - Dirty Beaches "Years" - Gold Lake "American Interior" - Gruff Rhys "Rookie" - Hideout "Inspiral Carpets" - Inspiral Carpets "Second Coming" - Korallreven "Michael" - Les Sins "III" - Mariachi El Bronx "Believer" - Megafortress "Hollywood High" - Mike Hudson & the Pagans "Very Good Bad Thing" - Mother Mother "Storytone" - Neil Young "Alone For The First Time" - Ryan Hemsworth "Southbound" - The Doobie Brothers "Mend Move on" - Trophy Eyes

"It's The Girls" - Bette Midler

Movies

"Picture Portrait pt 1" - We Are The Willows

FOR RENT (WEEK OF NOV. 3)

Maleficent, Planes: Fire & Rescue, Hercules, A Most Wanted Man, The One I Love, Fort Bliss, A Five Star Life, The Dog, Frontera, The Discoverers

NEW IN THEATERS (NOV. 7)

Interstellar (PG-13) - sci-fi -adventure Big Hero (PG-13) - action/comedy/family The Theory of Everything (PG-13) - drama Jessabella (PG-13) The Better Angels (PG) - drama Open Windows (NR) - crime/thriller









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Help continued from page 1

child," he said. "I was much too young to work, and having nothing to eat led me to desperate measures ... finding food wherever I could, even if it meant stealing just to survive."

While in high school, he said he sought out relationships with people willing to mentor him and lead him in a positive direction.

"I took college classes in high school, even though things weren't always a walk in the park," he said. "I believe everything I've been through has made me a stronger person."

During his junior year, Endicott faced being homeless after his father was arrested, he explained.

"A close friend of mine offered me a place to stay for a while. From that point on, I worked even harder to succeed in life. Shortly after I moved in with my friend, I received a scholarship to Rend Lake College and my life was forever changed."

The scholarship offered him the security and stability, financially, that he needed to focus on his future.

"I am currently studying medicine and, after I graduate, I would like to

be some type of surgeon or a family doctor."

Endicott feels America needs more doctors -"ones that are willing to be there for the patients, who really care for the needs of the people.

"I hope to inspire the next generation to become interested in the field of medicine," he said. "I am very thankful for the people who believed in me. It's one thing to say you believe in someone. It's another thing to show it by giving them a scholarship."

Endicott says he appreciates everyone who has helped him along the way and that he is using the advice he's been given.

Foundation continued from page 1

ter. Examples would be a coach, a boss, a minister, or a teacher."

The Foundation offers a variety of scholarships with different criteria, in an effort to reach as many students as possible.

"We have scholarships based on just about any criteria you can think of," Bullard explained. "They're based on locality, major, community involvement, work history, GPA, financial need, etc. I like to tell students that there are scholarships to fit each person's specific need. You just need to apply yourself."

That effort to reach as many students as possible has been well received. Every community in the RLC district is represented in scholarships. Some communities have more than others. Local communities see the value in continued education.

Bullard recommends students be proactive and search for other scholarship opportunities in their town. She adds that many organizations and businesses offer "outside" scholarships.

As a scholarship recipient myself, I can personally attest to what the foundation is doing and it is wonderful. Each year that I have attended RLC, I have been awarded a different scholarship through the Foundation. The past two have been major-specific, which will still help me when I transfer to a university. Those two major-specific scholarships will look good on a resume, as will any scholarship, and will continue to help me once I leave Rend Lake. RLC is all about a student's pathway to success, and the Foundation is paving major pathways for students all over the region.

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Lake College continues to be successful, and it's students like you here tonight," said McHaney. "Whoever came up with the idea of a community college was a genius, and there's no better place to acquire real-life training than at Rend Lake College. To the donors, thank

Meek then explained how the fundraiser started nearly five years before. When he came to RLC, there were no scholarships for students in the Criminal Justice Program, and he took it on as a personal mission to help the students he sees every day.

you for coming out here in

support."

"I appreciate everyone coming out tonight. We're able to do a lot for our students with your support," said Meek. "When I came to Rend Lake College, I would see students who really struggled, and couldn't come to class because of gas money or paying for tuition. I told my wife, it's a shame that there are students who want an education, but can't get it because of money. I truly believe that I'm successful if my students are successful. This is our third annual fundraiser, and I can't thank everyone enough for being here to support our students."

One of the scholarship recipients this year is Evelyn Mendez of Benton, an athlete on the women's tennis team and an active participant on campus. For the first-generation college student, scholarships like those from the Criminal Justice Program are helping her reach her goals.

"I'm the daughter of two Mexican immigrants who came to this country 20 years ago to give their daughters a better future. The success I've had is thanks to them," said Mendez. "I told my mother I wanted to be a police officer, and eventually join the FBI, and she told me I can do whatever I set my mind to. This program is very special to me, because it's my dream and also that of my family, because I've never had anyone in my family go to school. Scholarships like this really do make a difference to us. I want to thank the donors, and also thank Mr. Meek who has been a great advisor and who has helped me so much."

At the end of the event, Meek spoke on behalf of Doug Hoffman, Jefferson County State's Attorney, who donated \$1,000 from the county's Drug Forfeiture Fund, which is money collected from perpetrators of crimes. The donation was matched by an anonymous donor from the Rend Lake College Foundation.

For more information on the Criminal Justice Program, contact the Applied Science and Technology Division at (618) 437-5321, Ext. 1261.