



An
Evening of
Excellence



Monday, April 22, 2024
The Monument | LaCroix Hall
Dessert Reception 6:30pm
Awards Presentation 7:00pm

EVENT SPONSORS



State Farm



Matt McCormick, Agent
Scott Carlson, Agent

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PROGRAM

Welcome

David Dolan

Rapid City Public School Foundation Board Member

Teacher of the Year Recognition

Nicole Swigart

Superintendent of Rapid City Area Schools

Presentation of Distinguished Scholars

Kyle Richards and Christine Stephenson

Rapid City Public School Foundation Board Members

Closing Remarks

Sara Hornick

Executive Director, Rapid City Public School Foundation

Proceeds from the 2024 Evening of Excellence will be used toward grant awards during the 2024-2025 school year.

GOLD STAR SPONSORS

(\$1,000 AND ABOVE):

Thank you for your commitment to the RCPSF Grants Program

Rapid City

Education Association

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Nelson and Bury Dentistry

Kyle and Tammy Richards

Scott and Lara Roetzel

Floyd and Betty Schafer

Geoff and Jackie Slingsby

Nancy K Stephenson

Hans and Christine Stephenson

2024 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

NAME: **Bailey Apa**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Emily McGruther*

NAME: **Jada Backes**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *James Thovson*

NAME: **Samuel Barnes**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Samuel Blickensderfer**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Chris Budd**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Geoffrey Sheehy*

NAME: **Luther Busching**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Nicolette Dame**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Jennifer Dame*

NAME: **Clayton Edmund**
SCHOOL: Central High School

NAME: **Joniah Field**
SCHOOL: Workforce Development Program
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Katie Wald*

NAME: **Addison Fromm**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Oliver Hasse*

NAME: **Elliot Hendrix**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Genetie Hendrix*

NAME: **Hayden Holec**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Serenity Johnson**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Sandra Gillam*

2024 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

NAME: **Lily Knopp**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Becky Baker*

NAME: **Samuel Knudson**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Liliana Kowalski**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Carrie Huber*

NAME: **Charles Loos**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Kirk Guymon*

NAME: **Dominick Lunn**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Samuel Steinken*

NAME: **Fisher Martenson**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Jennifer Haar*

NAME: **Adelaide Morgan**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Gena Messer*

NAME: **Amelia Morgan**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Jennifer Haar*

NAME: **Charles Nefzger**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Geoffrey Sheehy*

NAME: **Eden Otten**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Carrie Huber*

NAME: **Blaze Parker**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Owen Peterson**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Madelyn Rehberg**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Sarah Pioske*

2024 DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS

NAME: **Molly Rensch**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Hope Hammerbeck*

NAME: **Corey Sehr**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Geoffrey Sheehy*

NAME: **Abigail Stevens**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Rhonda Pearcy*

NAME: **Jackson Swartz**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Dr. Andrew Smith*

NAME: **Caitlyn Tieman**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Andy Martin*

NAME: **Brooke Trove**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Heather Linde*

NAME: **Jaxon Vermundson**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Neal Cruce*

NAME: **Enya Wallace**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Geoffrey Sheehy*

NAME: **Lanie Weaver**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Michael McCulley*

NAME: **Claudia Werner**
SCHOOL: Stevens High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Jeff Fierro*

NAME: **Vanessa Wolf**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Nicole Bisgaard*

NAME: **Madyson Wolfe**
SCHOOL: Central High School
DISTINGUISHED TEACHER: *Shelly Wolfe*

TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2025

STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Andrew Smith

TEACHERS OF DISTINCTION 2025

BLACK HAWK	Tari Phares
CANYON LAKE	Mindy Nelson
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	Miranda Cruce
CORRAL DRIVE	Maryah Klapprodt
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL	Emily Martin
GENERAL BEADLE	Cecleie Sailer
GRANDVIEW	Gaylene Richards
HORACE MANN	Krista Patton
KNOLLWOOD HEIGHTS	Stacy Smith
MEADOWBROOK	Tricia Hauf
NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	Danielle Harding
PINEDALE	Leigh Shaw
RAPID CITY ALTERNATIVE ACADEMY	Jesse Sporrer
RAPID VALLEY	Sara Chapman
ROBBINSDALE	Brianna Arity
SOUTH CANYON	Carrie Baker
SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	Jordynne Hart
SOUTH PARK	Erika O'Connell
STEVENS HIGH SCHOOL	Dr. Andrew Smith
VALLEY VIEW	Jolene Buckingham
WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL	Matthew Figueredo
WOODROW WILSON	Stephanie Matthew

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Sarah Gross

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Michael Birkeland

Board of Education

Christine Stephenson

Board of Education

Jason McGough

Past-President

Taryn Seaholm

Student Representative

Sara Hornick

Executive Director

sara.hornick@k12.sd.us

605-484-5873

2023-2024 GRANTS AWARDED

Meadowbrook Elementary Skybound Scholars – Exploring with Drones and Discovering the World

A STEM program utilizing drones to help students solve real-life simulated challenges.

North Middle School: PBIS Team

Motivators for college and career readiness as well as encouragement for prosocial behaviors.

South Middle School: Outside the Walls Learning

Educational field trips to support students through the closure of South Middle School during construction.

South Middle School: A Quality Start

New science equipment to support the new learning labs in the new South Middle School.

Stevens High School, Black Hawk Elementary and Canyon Lake: Midwest Band Clinic

A professional development at an International Band clinic to learn new concepts regarding technique, selection, curriculum, recruitment and retention.

Stevens High School: Discovering Paleontology

Bringing in a content expert, Walter Stein, to include a lecture and hands-on activities that link to specific science standards through the study of fossils.

East Middle School: Beekeeping

Students will have first-hand experience monitoring, winterizing and upkeeping beehives that are stationed at Outdoor Campus West. In addition, they will process honey, clean frames to render beeswax, identify common pests in the hives and study the life cycles of bees and their ecological importance.



This year our Foundation is celebrating 30 years as a Foundation! Since our existence, we have granted more than a million dollars to Rapid City Area Schools! These contributions have funded experiences, trainings, supplies and technology that would not be possible without the Foundation's help and without the generosity from supporters like you!

Mykel Salazar, a 5th grade teacher at Meadowbrook Elementary, received a grant from the Rapid City Public Schools Foundation. "This grant is a HUGE gift to my classroom and school. I used the money to purchase a drone program to get all kids interested in STEAM fields. We just recently started the program and the pure excitement and joy on their faces is what all teachers strive to see in their students on a daily basis. We get to learn, and mimic, professions that use drones such as medics (delivering medicine), wildlife (monitoring animal behavior), firefighting, and many other fields. It has, and will, open student minds to the endless possibilities in STEAM fields. Thank you to the foundation and the donors who support the foundation and their work to support teachers and students."

Your contribution will help us to achieve our mission to enhance and enrich the educational experience of students, to recognize and inspire those who guide student learning, and to increase community support for public education. We accomplish our mission through the following programs: Staff Recognition such as Above and Beyond and Teacher of the Year; the Grant Program and tonight's event, the Evening of Excellence.

www.RCPSFoundation.org



Rapid City Public School Foundation

Inspire Students
Support Teachers
Create Opportunities



Donate Today:
Community Connections,
Brighter Futures!