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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MES FOUNDATION AWARDS $410,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO MAINE STUDENTS

Alfred, Maine – July 21, 2026 – MES Foundation (MES) announced today that it has awarded $410,000 through the Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholarship program to 22 Maine students. Established in honor of MES founder Richard "Dick" Pierce, who passed away in 2011, the scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and financial need.

"I'm driven not only by my interest in the medical field, but also by my desire to help others navigate difficult and unpredictable situations with empathy and strength," said Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholar Emma Alden. "However, pursuing higher education comes with many financial challenges. The cost of college alone is significant, let alone earning a doctorate. Receiving financial assistance allows me to focus more fully on my studies without the constant weight of financial burdens. This scholarship brings me one step closer to achieving my goals and making a meaningful impact in my community."

Alden is a graduate of Foxcroft Academy and will attend the University of New England, where she plans to study medical biology. She completed more than 715 hours of community service, primarily at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center. According to the Medical Center's Volunteer & Youth Development Manager, Emma stood out from her very first summer through her maturity, empathy, and strong sense of purpose. Her dedication and excellence earned her acceptance into the medical center's highly selective Student Volunteer Manager role.

"MES Foundation is proud to continue Mr. Pierce's legacy by investing in the future of Maine students like Emma," said Kristie Hurlburt, Executive Director of MES Foundation. "Since expanding our scholarship program in 2017, we have awarded nearly $1.9 million in scholarships to help Maine students achieve their educational goals."

MES Foundation will accept online applications for the 2027–2028 Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholarship beginning January 1, 2027, through April 1, 2027. Applications and eligibility information are available at **www.mesfoundation.org**.

2026 Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Renewable Scholarships

- Emma Alden – Foxcroft Academy
- Rihanna Barron – Waterville High School
- Jack Baxter – Kennebunk High School
- Anna Bearce – Waterville High School
- Chloe Brown – Mountain Valley High School
- Brady Bryant – Mount View High School
- Ava Garrett – Freeport High School
- Sicily Glass – Belfast Area High School

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- Anna Guzzi – Nokomis Regional High School
- Rosy Landrum – George Stevens Academy
- Michael Nielsen – Bonny Eagle High School
- Rebekah Perry-Lind – Sumner Memorial High School
- Julia Scarano – John Bapst Memorial High School
- Amanda Shaw – Deering High School
- Kobe Sherwood – Monmouth Academy
- Logan Vigue – Medomak Valley High School
- Molly Wear – Lake Region High School
- Marion Young – Presque Isle High School
- Ida Zanoni – Washington Academy
- Undisclosed recipient – Hodgdon Middle/High School

One-Time Scholarships

- Awnin Oxley – Camden Hills Regional High School
- Vorapat Voraraj – Stearns Junior-Senior High School

About MES Foundation

MES Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering educational opportunities and helping Maine students pursue higher education through scholarships.