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Building Brighter Futures for Booksellers

Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation Announces 2017 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

Ann Arbor, MI – Twenty-seven booksellers have been selected to receive more than \$100,000 in education scholarship funding as part of the Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation’s 2017 Higher Education Scholarship Program.

The recipients were selected from 125 applicants comprised of bookstore owners, booksellers, former Borders Books employees, or their dependents. In total, \$109,000 was awarded to help booksellers from 23 stores in 14 states reach their educational goals.

Binc received an outpouring of thank-you notes and letters following the scholarship announcement, with booksellers sharing how the financial assistance will help them thrive.

“I am truly grateful for your assistance and cannot thank you enough,” said Morgan Bryan, a bookseller from [Booktender’s Secret Garden](#) in Doylestown, PA. “The support Binc has given me over the years empowers me to keep pursuing my dreams and working hard. Thank you for all that you do!”

There were two \$10,000 scholarships, twenty-four \$3,500 scholarships, and one \$5,000 Karl Pohrt Memorial Scholarship - granted to an independent bookstore employee candidate who has overcome learning adversity or is a non-traditional student.

The scholarships can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies and room and board. Funds may also be used over consecutive years if the student is not able to use the entire award for the 2017-2018 academic year. Since 2001 the Foundation has supported the educational goals of more than 600 booksellers, granting over \$1.9 million in awards.

Recipient Mykala Matheny from [Viewpoint Books](#) in Columbus, IN, shared how her Higher Education Scholarship will help her achieve her goal of working in the film industry.

“I would not be able to pursue what I love to the extent to which I am without the support I’ve received through Binc,” she said. “You have enabled me to begin living the life I dreamed of in high school, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Providing financial assistance to help booksellers achieve their dreams is one of the most rewarding parts of maintaining the bookseller safety net, according to Binc Executive Director Pam French.

“Since 2001, Binc has helped ease the cost of a college education. Learning about the award winners, their achievements and aspirations is inspiring. ” she said. “Congratulations to all of the college scholarship winners!”

[Scholarship America](#) (Scholarship Management Services) conducted the third-party academic selection process to evaluate the scholarship applicants. The evaluation process utilized selection criteria including financial need, prior academic achievement and leadership capabilities (including participation in school and community activities) as well as work experience, a statement of career and educational goals and objectives, and unusual personal or family circumstances.

A list of scholarship recipients can be found [here](#). Information about how bookstore employees can apply for the 2018 Higher Education Scholarship Program will be released early next year.

About The Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances. Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$6 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,100 families. Support for the Foundation’s programs and services come from all sectors of the book industry. The Book Industry Charitable Foundation’s mission is to strengthen the bookselling community through charitable programs that support employees and their families. The Foundation was imagined and built by booksellers and proudly continues to be their safety net. It is our vision to be a caring community of book people. Additional information can be found at <http://www.bincfoundation.org>.