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Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation Announces 2018 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

Ann Arbor, MI – Twenty-seven booksellers have been selected to receive more than \$100,000 as part of the Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation’s 2018 Higher Education Scholarship Program.

The recipients were selected from 159 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 21 states reach their educational goals at 27 different schools.

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 cannot express how incredibly grateful I am to you and the Binc team for offering me this scholarship,” said recipient Hannah Richardson, who works at Malaprop’s Bookstore and Café in Asheville, NC. “As you well know, no one pursues a career in bookselling or education with the ultimate goal of having deep pockets, but the economic challenge to make this happen can be overwhelming. Thank you for helping to ease this burden, supporting my education and making me feel like an important member of the book community.”

There were two (2) \$10,000 scholarships, twenty-four (24) \$3,500 scholarships, and one (1) \$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 2018-2019 academic year. Since 2001, the Foundation has supported the educational goals of more than 600 booksellers, granting over \$1.9 million in awards.

Former Borders employee and scholarship winner Jennifer Rojas harkened back to Binc’s origins as the Borders Group Foundation in her thank-you communication.

“When Borders was still open, I witnessed how the Foundation supported my employees with both scholarships and during times of financial difficulties. I am incredibly grateful that the Binc Foundation has been able to continue supporting current and former booksellers throughout the industry.”

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.

“Booksellers are people who make the world a better place. We hope that by providing them with the opportunity to learn and grow through higher education, we are helping them change the world even more,” 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 2019 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 \$6.5 million in financial assistance and scholarships to more than 7,300 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>.