Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA)
Scholarship Winners 2014-2015

Region 1: Hannah Dorshorst | Auburndale High School

Hannah will be pursuing an educational psychology degree at UW Madison. She hopes to someday obtain a master’s degree in School Psychology and practice as a school psychologist.

Hannah states, “This tiny, rural school in the middle of nowhere has become a home to me, where we are all country cousins sometimes in blood, but most prominently in heart. In Auburndale, you can feel the close-knit support and the true, pure love the community has for these rolling expanses of beautiful green fields and the unconditional Auburndale ‘family.’ This wonderful support and the extensive amount of opportunity has made me the person I am today and paved a solid highway for me to succeed in my future endeavors.”

On topic of growing up in a rural school, Hannah says, “Without being part of such a supportive, successful and community-oriented, rural school, I honestly can say I would not be the person I am today. I owe all that I have and have ever learned to this great school district and thank them everyday.”

Region 2: Johanna Meister | Darlington High School

Johanna plans to attend UW Platteville to major in Mechanical Engineering. She says, “Growing up in a small town, I have had numerous people unknowingly make an impact on my life. Without each of them, I would not be who I am today, and if I had not been raised in a tight-knit, rural community I would not have learned valuable lessons that are an integral part of who I am.”

Johanna reflects on her rural community and school, “Growing up ‘rural’ does not mean that I missed out on opportunities. It does mean that my opportunities have been enhanced from the input of many others.”
**Region 3: Eryn Mares | Unity High School**

Eryn will be attending UW Eau Claire in the fall. Eryn says her love of science is leading her toward pursuing a degree in the field of biology. She will start college with an undecided major and through college experiences, narrow her interests down within the biology field to molecular biology, biochemistry or environmental biology.

When asked about the benefits of growing up in a rural community, Eryn comments, “Growing up in a rural community has allowed me to come to appreciate and admire how everyone helps each other out, whether they know them (which is very likely) or not...I've come to value the people of my small community, and the pride they have in our town.”

**Region 3: Carolyn Peterson | Grantsburg High School**

Carolyn’s career goal is to obtain a master’s degree in occupational therapy from UW La Crosse. She also wants to pursue a minor in art. Carolyn shared her thoughts on attending a small, rural school:

“My school district is very small which has benefited me by providing many opportunities. The faculty in our district provide students with the best education they can give us. Because we are such a small school our teachers know just about every student in the school by name and what their character is. Our teachers know how each of us learn and they will find a way for each student to reach their potential. Because we have a small amount of students, we have many opportunities to be in multiple extracurricular courses...These experiences have made me become a well-rounded person.”
Sadie plans to attend UW Madison but hasn’t decided on a course of study. Sadie states, “Leaving the quite woods and familiar landscape will be difficult at first, but opportunities often arise through change. I can choose to expect the worst or I can jump in and do my very best...My friends, family, and the influence of my environment have given me a strong moral foundation I will build on as I attend college and pursue a career.”