



Wisconsin Rural Schools Alliance (WiRSA) Scholarship Winners 2016-2017

Region 1: Matthew Dinse | [Oakfield High School](#)



My name is Matt Dinse and I attend Oakfield High School. In the fall, I plan to attend UW-Milwaukee, majoring in marketing and minoring in political science. I value marketing because of the psychology of selling and the challenge of being innovative in business. I have two older brothers, John and Bryan, who are both married with kids. My hobbies include going to Brewers games, hanging out with my family and friends, and collecting sports memorabilia. In school, I enjoy my AP History and Politics classes the most, someday hoping to run for public office, which was inspired by my time at

Badger Boys State last June.

Region 2: Lauren Blumer | [Albany High School](#)



My name is Lauren Blumer. I will be attending UW-Madison for Nursing with plans to enter medical school and become a Pediatrician. I live in Albany, a community of approximately 1,100 people, with my mom, dad, brother Evan, dog Sophie and cat JJ. I attend Albany High school where I am involved in many activities such as Cross Country, Track, National Honor Society, Choir, Musicals, FFA, and FBLA. I have always enjoyed volunteering and helping others. Through incredible community service experiences like Big Brothers Big Sisters, American Red Cross, UMC Youth Group and many others, I have gained a tremendous amount of life skills that have helped shape me into the person I am today. For as long as I can remember, my heritage and family history have been an important part of my life and have played a key role in my upbringing. I was born and raised on our family farm where we raise heifers and milk cows. This fueled my love for animals and motivated me even more to seek a profession in the medical field. I decided at the young age of five that I wanted to become a doctor. Specializing in pediatric medicine will allow me to explore my interest in the medical field and help children and their families.

Region 3: Marnie Schecklman | [Greenwood High School](#)



I have had the privilege of growing up in a close-knit community in the heart of Wisconsin, named Greenwood. Greenwood has left a mark on me, and after graduation I hope to leave my mark on Greenwood. My older sister and I have been raised by our two loving parents and they have taught me the value and importance of spending time with family. Throughout high school, I have been involved in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, such as Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, and a few others, but by far, my favorite activities are those in the music department. Though I plan to major in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to become a speech pathologist, I wish to remain musically active through my years at college by joining choirs, bands, and hopefully an acapella group because who doesn't like Pitch Perfect? I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to grow up in this small, rural community, because the bonds I share with the people of Greenwood and the education I received while attending Greenwood High School are truly irreplaceable.

Region 4: Amanda Kind | [Marathon High School](#)



Next year, I will attend the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse where I will attain a degree in Political Science. I am excited to move onto the next step of my education, with my end goal of being a lawyer. I want to be a lawyer in order to help others receive justice and use my knack of politics to help better the lives of others. During high school I have kept myself busy with three sports, multiple clubs, a job, and challenging classes. The small town support of Marathon has helped me be successful in all aspects of my life.

At Large: Maya Dix | [Wild Rose High School](#)



Wild Rose is my rural, little community I call home. Living here my whole life has helped me develop my core values, something I will treasure forever. Being a part of a rural community has allowed me to stay involved throughout my high school career. Some of the extra-curricular activities I have been involved in are: Volleyball, Track and Field, Student Senate, Key Club, and Letterman's Club. I'm excited to be able to continue my

education at Saint Cloud State University with hopes of eventually becoming a dentist. I have chosen dentistry as my career because it allows me to help change people's lives. Not only will I be able to improve a person's oral health and comfort, but also their physical appearance, giving them newfound confidence, something I cannot wait to do.