



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

Region 1: Sydney Herman | [Mishicot High School](#)



My name is Sydney Herman and I currently attend Mishicot High School. I look forward to attending St. Norbert College where I plan to major in biology with future career interests leaning toward research, biochemistry or environmental science. During my high school years, I was a member of National Honor Society, FFA, Forensics, Student Government, FBLA and Power of Positive Students Mentoring Program and held several leadership roles. I participated in multiple band groups and in sports such as volleyball, basketball and track and field. Reading, outdoor activities, spending time with family, friends and pets are activities I enjoy in my free time. Growing up in a rural community has provided me with ideals I highly value, such as service, compassion and responsibility. Volunteer service and giving to my community are important aspects of my life and while at Mishicot, I completed several hundred hours of community service. It is my belief that no matter how small a contribution, one person can truly make a difference by giving their time and talent to those in need or who cannot advocate for themselves.

Region 2: Hailey Stefanik | [Albany High School](#)



My name is Hailey Stefanik and I am currently a senior at Albany High School. I will be attending UW-Stevens Point in the fall of 2018. I plan to study Health Promotion and Wellness with the hopes of pursuing a career in the health and fitness industry. I have always been an active person but recently I have really dived into the idea of health and wellness. I believe that this kind of career will suit me because the health field has an abundance of opportunities and will allow me to be creative and help other people reach their goals.

Region 3: Athena Hiemstra | [Turtle Lake High School](#)



My name is Athena Hiemstra. I am the Salutatorian for the graduating class of 2018. During my time at Turtle Lake High School I have held many leadership positions. I was chosen by teammates and coaches to be a team captain in both Volleyball and Basketball and I am an attentive member in Student Council and National Honor Society. Also, I am a teacher's assistant for the Pre-Kindergarten Class. These experiences have led me to pursue a career in Pediatrics. I will further my education at UW-Madison this fall, majoring in Nursing. After I earn my Nursing degree, I plan to attend medical school to become a Pediatrician.



Region 4: Stephanie Peitersen | [Oconto Falls High School](#)



Hi! My name is Stephanie Peitersen and I am a senior at Oconto Falls High School. I have strived throughout high school to engage myself in many leadership opportunities to help shape myself into a well-rounded student for my future endeavors. These leadership positions include being the President of the Oconto Falls Future Business Leaders of America chapter, Vice President of National Honor Society, Student School Board Representative for Student Council, Secretary for Student Council, and Promotion Chair for FBLA. I was also a 2017 American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girl State Delegate. These leadership positions have opened a countless amount of opportunities for me, and I was even able to create a partnership with the local senior center in Oconto Falls. Throughout this partnership, students at the high school bonded with senior citizens to create relationships and shrink the age gap in my community. I have donated over 350 hours of community service to building this partnership. One of my passions is to give back to my community and to make a difference, and I have done exactly this through over 650 hours of community service. For other extracurricular activities, I have played volleyball and softball all four years of high school and was the varsity captain for both teams this year. Alongside my extracurricular activities, I am a High Honor Student with a GPA of 3.9 and will be attending the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse next fall. I will be pursuing a career in the medical field to become a Physician's Assistant while also majoring in psychology. My goal for the future is to specifically work with students who are diagnosed with ADHD and OCD because I personally understand the struggle with having to deal with these, myself, from a very young age.

At Large: Emma Lawrence | [Benton High School](#)



Growing up in the small rural community of Benton, Wisconsin has allowed me to become extremely involved in various activities. Giving back to my community is my favorite thing to do. I am a three-sport athlete, which has allowed me to gain valuable life lessons that I will carry with me in the future. I plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse to major in biology with a concentration in biomedical sciences while also minoring in Spanish. At UWL, I plan to play volleyball and run track!