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## **MRHD to Award \$300,000 to Local Colleges for Scholarship Grants**

SIoux CITY – Missouri River Historical Development Inc., (MRHD) will award a total of \$300,000 for funding scholarship grants to Briar Cliff University, Morningside University, St. Luke’s College, and Western Iowa Tech Community College during an award ceremony on February 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10am, at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, located at 900 Larsen Park Road.

The purpose of the MRHD Scholarship Grant program is to provide funding to support students who have the greatest financial need with a scholarship of up to a maximum of \$5000 per student. Each college will receive \$75,000 to administer MRHD scholarship grants during the 2024-2025 academic year. MRHD requires recipients of these scholarships to have graduated from a public or private high school in Woodbury County. MRHD also requests colleges to consider students with a GPA of 3.0 or below but does not limit their consideration of awarding a student with a higher GPA and greater financial need.

“We’re pleased to be able to provide continuing support for deserving students attending the four colleges located in Woodbury County with these Scholarship Grants,” says Sarah Kleber, President of the MRHD Board of Directors.

“We know these scholarships have the power to remove financial barriers for students to pursue degrees and training that can make a significant impact on the lives of those who receive them, Higher education is a powerful tool to transform individuals and families which aligns perfectly with our mission of improving the quality of life for all Woodbury County residents,” says Kleber.

MRHD is the non-profit Qualified Sponsoring Organization that holds the license for casino gaming in Woodbury County and receives funding from an agreement with Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Sioux City. Under Iowa law, a percentage of the casino’s gaming revenues is allocated to MRHD for community development.

Since 1989, MRHD has invested more than \$52 Million into the Siouxland community through grants funded by casino gaming revenue. Through the scholarship grants, MRHD has awarded over \$2.6 Million for deserving students to pursue higher education at our local colleges.

For more information about MRHD, or the 2024 Scholarship Grant Awards Ceremony, contact MRHD Executive Director, David Gleiser at: (712) 899-6631, or [execdir@mrhdiowa.org](mailto:execdir@mrhdiowa.org).

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