

## **INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND HELPS INDEPENDENCE GRADUATES PAY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Independence School District's dedication to its students is clear in its mission, "We will maximize learning for all students," and its vision, "Everyone, every day."

In 1999, community leaders supported that mission and vision by establishing the Independence Education Foundation (IEF) with the purpose of encouraging students to become more engaged in their community and school as well as supporting their post-secondary educations. They also hoped that scholarship recipients would go on to extend similar generosity to students in future generations.

However, they soon realized that managing a fund requires a tremendous amount of time, work, and expertise. Since the IEF was run by volunteers, maintaining it became a struggle.

For that reason, the IEF voted to merge with the Eau Claire Community Foundation (ECCF) in 2014. Their merger created the Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund; while its goal remains the same, it is now safeguarded and administered by the ECCF.

"The Eau Claire Community Foundation is honored to support scholarships for the post-secondary education of students attending the School District of Independence," said Sue Bornick, Executive Director of the ECCF.

The ECCF is a non-profit organization that helps donors establish charitable legacies, makes grants, and serves as a catalyst to address community needs. It was founded in 1997 by Eau Claire community leaders and, since then, has extended its services to other area communities.

Several family funds held by the IEF also moved to the ECCF: the Laura Graul Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Arnold and Marie Maliszewski Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Marge and Jesse Edmundson Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the Max Manuel Isaacs and Hannah Bernhardt Isaacs Memorial Scholarship Fund. Each of these funds has specific criteria; more information about them can be found on the ECCF website.

The Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund functions as a general community fund and accepts gifts from anyone interested in donating to it. While it currently offers two \$250 scholarships annually, it will be able to offer more and larger scholarships as it grows.

Contributions to this fund are tax-deductible. Donors can mail their gifts to the ECCF at 306 S. Barstow St., Suite 104, Eau Claire, WI 54701. (They should note "Independence Public School Memorial Scholarship Fund" on their donations.) They can also consult the ECCF website: [www.eccommunityfoundation.org](http://www.eccommunityfoundation.org)  
School District of Independence [www.indps.k12.wi.us](http://www.indps.k12.wi.us)  
OR call the ECCF at (715) 552-3801 for more information.