



ACADEMIC AWARDS

In order as presented at the Academic Awards program on May 19, 2026

COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS

- **HARVARD UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:** Awarded to the outstanding junior who combines excellence in scholarship with achievement in other fields.
- **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:** Awarded to an outstanding student at the end of their junior year at public and private secondary schools across the country. Criteria for selection of the student includes intellectual promise and academic excellence; exemplary service or extracurricular activities; and outstanding personal character.
- **ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:** Awarded to that junior who has demonstrated a significant commitment to some aspect of sustainability, conservation, climate change, or a topic related to environmental awareness and/or advocacy.
- **UNIVERSITY ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND) BOOK AWARD:** Awarded to an outstanding junior who has shown, by their deeds, a commitment to international engagement and understanding.
- **YALE UNIVERSITY BOOK AWARD:** Awarded to a junior student who has demonstrated outstanding personal character and intellectual promise with a strong commitment to their community.

HISTORY WRITING CONTEST

In 2002, an anonymous alumnus endowed a fund to establish an annual History Writing Contest at WRA to encourage high quality research and writing. Students, of any grade, may submit papers written for courses here at Reserve that examine a historical topic and which are approximately 8-15 pages in length. Each year the school awards prizes in two divisions: World History and American History, and within each category, three winning papers are selected. Those papers are bound and presented to the Ong Library, and the first place papers in each category are published in the subsequent year's issue of Viewpoints.

RENSSELAER MEDAL AWARD

Founded in 1824, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is the oldest technological institution in North America, and is located in the Capital Region of New York State. This prestigious award has been awarded since 1916 to one student in any given high school and is designed to recognize that student's strength and success in the fields of mathematics and science.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER AWARDS

- **BAUSCH & LOMB SCIENCE AWARD:** Every year since 1933, Bausch & Lomb has honored outstanding high school science students with the Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award. The awardee is recognized for outstanding academic achievement and intellectual promise in the field of science.

- **FREDERICK DOUGLASS & SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARD:** Rochester natives Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony led the fight to end inequalities, through dialogue and action. The University is proud to continue the tradition of these pioneers through extensive research and study devoted to social justice and human rights. Students must demonstrate commitment to understanding and addressing difficult social issues; have leadership skills and dedication to community action; strong grades; and take rigorous courses in the humanities and social sciences.
- **GEORGE EASTMAN YOUNG LEADERS AWARD:** In founding the Eastman Kodak Company, George Eastman's goal was to make the camera "as convenient as a pencil." By the end of his life, he had created one of the largest and most successful companies in America. Eastman's leadership lives on today through Kodak and through his philanthropy, including a gift of over \$50 million that helped transform the University of Rochester into an internationally celebrated institution. The George Eastman Young Leaders Award seeks to recognize future leaders who may have a similar impact on our world today. Students must have strong leadership experience at school and in the community; high grades and challenging courses; and extensive involvement in extracurricular activities.

CORINNE VAN DAME DAVIS AWARD

This award has been established by family, former students, and friends to celebrate Mrs. Davis's life and her devotion to the school she loved. The inimitable Corinne Van Dame Davis, better known as Corky, taught at Reserve from 1972 to 1994, during which time she staged countless plays and musicals and became known for her legendary high standards and her exhausting work ethic. The award is given to a rising junior and a rising senior who have demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to the theater or public speaking programs at Reserve.

KURDZIEL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC

The Kurdziel Award is given to a junior who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to and excellence in instrumental music. The student must have made significant contributions to the WRA music program and be a positive role model for other students. The student must have demonstrated excellence in their instrument.

FRANKLIN '30 & MARY BARLOW AWARD

This award is presented to a junior "who displays an energetic perseverance and a positive dedication and commitment to their studies and who truly maximizes the benefits afforded by Western Reserve Academy. This individual, through solid citizenship and enthusiasm, provides an inspiration to their classmates."

JOEL B. HAYDEN AWARD

Awarded to "the best all-around student in the junior class, considering scholarship, student activities and leadership."

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS SERVICE AWARD

The University Hospitals Portage Medical Center welcomes volunteer contributions from enthusiastic high school students in grateful recognition of their dedicated service and compassionate commitment to the volunteer program.

SERVE OHIO COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Awarded to an Ohio youth who has made great contributions to their local communities and state through service and volunteerism.

AMBASSADOR AWARD | THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE USA

Awarded to those whose commitment to making a difference embodies the true spirit of civic responsibility, meets critical community needs, and inspires others to take meaningful action.

DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Awarded to those exemplary students in each course of study, voted on by each department chair and members, to receive diploma honors.

OHIO LOTTERY BEST OF THE CLASS

Ohio Lottery's "Best of Class" award recognizes Northeast Ohio's top academic achievers.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL STAR STUDENTS

Graduating seniors from high schools in Summit, Stark, Portage, Medina, Wayne and southern Cuyahoga counties are eligible for Star Students recognition in the Akron Beacon Journal.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

Out of over 1.5 million eligible students across the country, approximately 15,000 are designated as National Merit Scholarship finalists, representing just 1% of candidates. The program's executive committee considers academic record, leadership abilities and extracurricular involvement in selecting scholarship finalists after PSAT scores initially determine the pool of Semifinalists.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Out of over 1.5 million eligible students across the country, approximately 7,500 are designated as National Merit Scholarship winners, representing just 0.5% of candidates. The program's executive committee considers academic record, leadership abilities and extracurricular involvement in selecting scholarship winners after PSAT scores initially determine the pool of Finalists.

PHI BETA KAPPA

Awarded annually to one senior who "demonstrates qualities of academic honesty, inquiry into scholarship matters which goes beyond assignments and requirements, a creative involvement in scholarship, and a great interest in things of the mind." Emphasis is placed on a student who contributes to the "intellectual environment" of their community.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS

U.S. Military Academies (U.S. Military Academy West Point, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) The academies are undergraduate colleges that provide education and training to develop future commissioned officers of the U.S. Armed Forces. They consider evidence of character, scholarship, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, personal goals,

motivation, and service to the community, when evaluating each nominee's application. Being awarded a military appointment is highly coveted in an extremely competitive landscape. Acceptance of an academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active-duty service.

ANNE CHAPMAN HISTORY PRIZE

The Anne Chapman History Prize was established in 1995 to honor both great teaching and outstanding accomplishment in history. This prize is given to that student in the senior class who best emulates the qualities that Dr. Chapman brings to the classroom. These qualities include a love of history, great intellectual curiosity, an ability to articulate ideas both verbally and on paper and a strong desire to share knowledge with others.

DAVID S. DENNISON JR. '36 HISTORY PRIZE

This prize, established by Mrs. Jennifer Dennison-Budak and Rev. B. Whitman Dennison '39, was awarded initially to a senior in 2003 and is now awarded annually to one student from any class who has demonstrated superior achievement in the field of history.

ROBERT R. STOLL MATHEMATICS PRIZE

First awarded at commencement in 1988 to honor Professor Robert R. Stoll by his son, David B. Stoll M.D., Class of 1969. The award will be given to that senior or junior who, in the estimation of the faculty, demonstrates the highest aptitude and most creativity in the discipline of mathematics.

ROLLIN W. WAITE MATHEMATICS PRIZE

This award is given to the senior, who in the estimation of our math faculty, demonstrates a high aptitude in mathematics, but also is a classroom leader through their hard work and example for others in the discipline of mathematics. This prize was established by the Mathematics Department of WRA in 2000, to honor long-standing faculty master and department chair, Rollin W. Waite.

PETER L. EBERLY '70 LANGUAGE PRIZE

This award is given to a student in the graduating class, and recognizes that student whose effort and performance in at least one foreign language demonstrates an exceptional sensitivity to and appreciation of the intrinsic value of language and culture. The recipient should have the experience of at least the third level of one foreign language (classical or modern). Through their dedication and commitment to the learning of foreign language(s), this student best personifies the spirit of inter-cultural understanding as it is conveyed through the study of a language, its literature, its culture, and its people.