

Ricks Institute

RIAA PROJECT TEAM E-LETTER

Volume 1, September 2022

Letter From The National Chair

Our Dear Donors and Supporters,
Greetings from the National
Leadership of RIAA-USA, Inc.!

It is with much gratitude that we
acknowledge and thank you for your
sustained partnership in support of
our scholarship program.
Your contributions over the years
continue to make a major impact in



*Rena Smith-Jarrett
National Chair and
Chair of the Board
RIAA-USA, INC*

the lives of our students. Without Donors like you
who have given generously to this program, many
of our students would not afford to attend Ricks
Institute.

As the new school year approaches, we want to
gently remind you that the need and urgency for
support is still great. We therefore pray that we can
continue to count on your much needed support.
Every penny given to this effort goes a long way in
shaping the lives of our students, our future
leaders, for generations to come.

Once again, we extend heartfelt thanks for your
support, always remembering that we are "not for
self, but for others"!

Yours sincerely,

Rena Smith-Jarrett
National Chair & Chair of the Board

RIAA Project Development Team Chair Expresses Gratitude for Support

It is an honor to have been elected to the Office of
the Program & Development Team as the Chair. I
want to thank the team for their hard work and
commitment to carrying out the responsibilities of
providing educational programs to enhance the
learning environment at Ricks Institute.

The Program & Development Team has had a
tumultuous two years but there have been many
exciting developments. COVID-19 had interrupted
our scholarship programs, the everyday running of
Ricks Institute, and the normal way we conduct our
programs.

Like many other organizations, we have found ways to reinvent ourselves
and move forward with resilience. To that extent, the Committee has
worked tediously to adopt and create ongoing scholarship programs to
enhance educational opportunities for the Ricks families. We were able to
add three more such scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year.

We have made great efforts to promote our STEM Program by
purchasing several STEM items, including Robotic Competition kits, some
math club items, and 25 computers that were donated. These items have
been successfully shipped and received by the Administration of Ricks.

The team was also successful in creating the Board approved Adopt-A-
Student Scholarship Program, a need-based full tuition and board program
that was awarded to six deserving students for the 2021-2022 school year.
We were also able to establish a unique Partnership with RIAA-LIB and
became actively involved in the execution of the groundwork of the Adopt-
A-Student Program in Liberia.

We have created the RIAA-USAA Mentorship Initiative, a program to
develop a mentor and mentee relationship to help the students at Ricks to
be more goal-oriented and focus on their academic growth in a more
structured way. This will give us an opportunity to track students' progress
from elementary to middle and high school. The Mentorship Program will
be launched in the near future. We are also making a heroic effort to launch
our first E-Newsletter in the next month in November of 2022.

I am truly grateful to all the team members for your support and hard
work .

Thanks,
Gloria Freeman
Program & Development Chair



*Gloria Freeman, '78
P&D Chair*

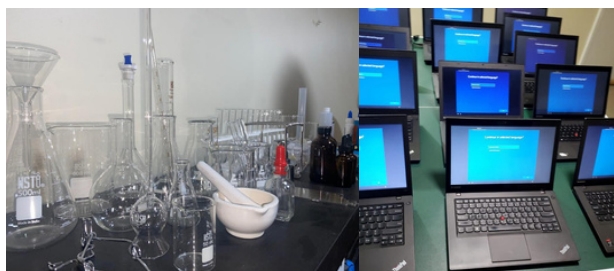
RIAA Project Team Doing Work

With turbulent times facing Ricks Institute, uncertainties heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, the RIAA community has not been spared the daunting challenge to stay engaged as an active and resourceful partner for the sustenance of Ricks Institute. The proof is in the pudding – the enduring effort of the RIAA project team.

The team has delivered on major initiatives, and has increased financial support for students' education at Ricks. Thanks to the generosity of donors, dragon alumni and dedicated core of project team members. Over the last two years, the committee embarked on three major undertakings: it secured and administered additional number of scholarships for Ricks students, initiated an Adopt-A-Student program, and a STEM program among other things.

For 2022-2023 academic year, RIAA project team has administered more than \$13,500 in need and merit-based scholarships to at least 19 students. Most of the scholarships have been donated by Ricks alumni in honor of family members or, other past and present influential individuals who have impacted Ricks, the Ricks community and the broader Liberian educational landscape. The award packages range from full ride (including: room and boards and stipends) to partial tuitions.

In late 2020 the team rolled out the Adopt-A-Student program, a need-based program to provide financial support for students from the communities surrounding Ricks Institute, such as Memey Town and Massaquoi Town. The program aim is to enhance the total student by meeting and tracking their social, economic, and academic needs through a transformative educational experience. The effort, however, has not been without struggles. It has not yet to receive any sponsors to adopt a child, which prompted the RIAA leadership to seek the board's approval for RIAA to sponsor the first set of recipients. Another focused area is an effort to enhance the school's curriculum in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math – S.T.E.M. This year, the team reached important milestones in its STEM program. It has delivered a variety of STEM kits, most of which has so far been primarily resourced through direct contribution or donation from some of the team's members and their supporting networks. The current STEM kits cover areas in robotics, chemistry, mathematics, and physics.



Laptops and STEM materials delivered to Ricks Institute

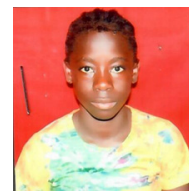
Among the assortment of STEM and learning materials (Robotic competition kits, and chemistry lab equipment) are Math Club items donated by alumna Yvonne Itoka, and 25 laptops donated by Pfizer Digital through their colleague alumnus Rocheforte Padmore.

While dedicated members were able to provide educational kits, the program is in dire need of more support. The success of the program rides on a lot more; an effective ground team, dedicated and knowledgeable staff on the ground to execute the program and help students utilize the full capabilities of equipment translates then into useful science and engineering education of the students. The RIAA project team has been working with the new school administration to ensure the STEM program enriches the school's curriculum and provide a useful overall academic experience.

The RIAA program & development" team efforts, during these two grueling years of global uncertainties, has been an exemplary demonstration of the school's motto - "Not For Self, But For Others". It has raised the prospects of creating a lasting impact on young lives and communities around Ricks Institute.

A Featured Story On One of The Scholarship Recipients

Mateneh Sheriff is one of the first recipients of six students who received full tuition and board for the 2021-2022 school year. The Team is very proud to present to you a promising sixth grader who has demonstrated good character, good academic ability, and a determination to succeed. She has expressed interest in becoming a Nurse and her hobbies are reading and playing kickball. The Adopt-A-Student Scholarship Program is so honored to be a part of giving Mateneh this opportunity to experience the best education at Ricks Institute. Please let's all work together to create many such opportunities for the children of Ricks and the surrounding areas to transform as many families as possible by giving your time, service and financial support. The Team hopes this story will create awareness and inspire those potential donors who have the desire to be instruments of change by donating scholarships to our less fortunate families in Liberia.



*Dear Sponsor,
I greet you in the name of the Almighty God. I just want to tell you thank you for helping me towards my primary education. I also want to tell you thank you for taking me as your child to pay my school fees. It is by your help right now that I am in school at Ricks Institute, the best school in the world. Thanks for being so kind to me and I promise that I will make you and my parents proud.*

Sincerely yours,

Mateneh Sheriff

SCHOLARSHIPS RACKED UP AT RI TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Since its appointment in 2020, the RIAA Project Team has received nearly \$14,000 to help numerous students get education at Ricks Institute. It has distributed the funding through a thorough application process to students based on financial needs and academic merits. Nearly all the funding has come from alumni, friends or family members of Ricks Institute. Below are the lists of donors of the current scholarships.

Scholarships Managed by RIAA-USA	Primary	Number Available	Amount
Blessings from Neighbors	financial	1	416
The Orlynn Evans Academic Scholarship for Excellence in Scienc	Merit	2	2,000
Dr. Rocheforte Weeks & Mrs. Julia Brooks Thomson Scholarship Fund	financial	4	2,000
Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	6	3,000
Moses Ricks Humanitarian Award	financial	1	3,200
The T. Eugene Oody Academic Award.	Merit	1	1,000
Mrs. Irene J. Boima Walker Humanitarian Scholarship	financial	2	1,200
T-Max Davis II Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence.	Merit	2	1,000
		19	13,816

RIAA USA Draft 2022 - 2023 SCHOLARSHIP Selection				
Last name	First Name	Scholarships Managed by RIAA-USA	Primary bases	Amount
Armagh	Helena	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Cooper	Clarence	Dr. Rocheforte Weeks & Mrs. Julia Brooks Thomson Scholarship Fund	financial	500
Cooper	Caleb	Mrs. Irene J. Boima Walker Humanitarian Scholarship	financial	600
Doeway	Darlee	Dr. Rocheforte Weeks & Mrs. Julia Brooks Thomson Scholarship Fund	financial	500
Doeway	Darlee	The Orlynn Evans Academic Scholarship for Excellence in Scienc	Merit	1,000
Dorley	Edwincia	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Konneh	Varlee	T-Max Davis II Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence.	Merit	500
Konneh	Varlee	The T. Eugene Oody Academic Award.	Merit	1,000
Koyea	Sandra	Dr. Rocheforte Weeks & Mrs. Julia Brooks Thomson Scholarship Fund	financial	500
Koyea	Sandra	T-Max Davis II Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence.	Merit	500
Lippay	Henica	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Open for applications		The Orlynn Evans Academic Scholarship for Excellence in Scienc	Merit	1,000
Open for applications		Mrs. Annette Johnson Brown Scholarship	financial	500
Powo	Betty	Moses Ricks Humanitarian Award	financial	3,200
Sarnor	Folley	Blessings from Neighbors	financial	416
Sirleaf	Tonia	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Smith	Emma	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Swaray	Beambah	Johnetta R. Minor Scholarship (JRM Service Award)	financial	500
Wilson	Esther	Mrs. Irene J. Boima Walker Humanitarian Scholarship	financial	600
Yah	Garteh	Dr. Rocheforte Weeks & Mrs. Julia Brooks Thomson Scholarship Fund	financial	500

"Show your support for a tradition of quality education at Ricks Institute. Please make your donation to the RIAA Project & Development team's initiatives; It will be a gift that keeps giving! Give at <https://riaausa.org/ways-to-donate/>"

