

Call for best and brightest in 2021 Academic Masters

The Academic Masters Competition is looking for interested high school students.

Four high schools will be competing: Illinois Valley, Hidden Valley, Grants Pass and North Valley. There are five categories in the competition that include English, math, music, science and social science.

To refresh your memory about the Academic Masters Competition, in 1984, a group of Grants Pass businesses joined together to recognize and honor local students for academic excellence through a countywide competition.

For more than 30 years, thousands of students from Josephine County’s high schools have competed for the honor of representing their schools in the grand Academic Masters Competition each spring. Since 1984, more than 700 students have been awarded over \$350,000.

The 2021 schedule is as follows:

January: Each high school hosts its “in-house competition: All interested students are invited to take written tests in English, mathematics, science, social studies and music. Top scorers on the written tests compete in the oral competition, a performance of their

academic skills in front of an audience.

February: The five finalists (one in each subject) from each high school take written tests in their subjects at Rogue Community College (RCC). Professors from RCC will write, administer and score the exams. Scores of the written exams count for 25% to 75% (different subjects weight the written and live performances differently) in the final rankings.

March: The 20 finalists compete in the evening oral competition, hosted by each school on a rotating basis. Grants Pass will host in 2021. RCC judges adjudicate the event and announce the final standings.

April: Students are awarded their winnings and will write letters of thanks to donors who support the competition.

This year there will be \$20,000 plus in prizes. First place will receive \$1,500, second place \$1,200, third place \$1,000 and fourth place \$800.

Illinois Valley High School students should contact Sheri Larson at 541-592-2116 to sign up for the Academic Masters.

Four Way moves up deadline for Rose Douglas grant program

The Four Way Community Foundation has moved the window for submission of applications to the Rose Douglas grant program to Jan. 1, 2021 through March 1, 2021. In previous years, the deadline had been April 1. The change will give board members more time to focus exclusively on Rose Douglas applications, before the Community Grants program deadline, which remains April 1st.

Rose Douglas Grants are funded by an endowment from longtime local educator Rose Douglas, whose son Gary had Down Syndrome, and who wished to build a more enriching environment for residents like him. The grants benefit Josephine County organizations serving people with intellectual disabilities. In the 2020 granting cycle, \$61,500 was provided locally through this program.

Organizations serving Josephine County residents with intellectual disabilities are encouraged to apply for funding, which may be capital, program-related, or operational in nature. Full details are on the website at fourwaycommunityfoundation.org/grants. Applicants should carefully read all guidelines before proceeding to the details for the Rose Douglas program. A firm nondiscrimination policy requirement applies.

The Community Grants application window remains Feb. 1 through April 1. Community Grants

may be up to \$10,000, are capital in nature, and are available to nonprofits serving Josephine and western Jackson counties.

Groups new to either grant program are especially encouraged to apply. A video meeting to introduce applicants to the Rose Douglas program and to answer questions is offered on January 6th. A Community Grants applicant information session will be held January 12. Request the registration link for either meeting by email to fourwaycommfndn@gmail.com.

“Smaller or newer groups that might be intimidated by grants should go ahead and start with Four Way,” suggested Ray Dinkins of Women’s Crisis Support Team, which utilizes Rose Douglas funding to assist clients with special needs. “They keep the process simple and will assist local groups every step of the way.”

The Four Way Community Foundation has served our area for 45 years, and has given over \$7 million in grants and scholarships locally, using proceeds from the invested \$9.8 million dollars in local donations entrusted to its care.

Endowment gifts to benefit local groups or fields of interest may be made to the Four Way Community Foundation so that those funds may provide for our community in perpetuity. Contact Four Way at 474-9774 or at fourwaycommfndn@gmail.com.



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