

# MEMORANDUM

**TO: Illinois Community College System**

**FROM: Karen Hunter Anderson, Ph.D.**

**DATE: October 22, 2015**

**SUBJECT: Matilyn Bindl, 2015 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate, Representing the Illinois Community College System**

Matilyn Bindl, a second year student at Rock Valley College, has been selected to represent the Illinois Community College System as its 2015 Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate. The 2015 class of student laureates will be honored in Springfield on Saturday, November 7th, at the Old State Capitol, followed by a luncheon at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

Bindl is enrolled in the Rock Valley College Running Start Program, which gives high school students the ability to obtain an associate degree and high school diploma simultaneously. Bindl holds a **4.0 GPA** at Rock Valley College and at Belvidere North High School. She will graduate from both institutions next spring then transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bindl will pursue a bachelor's degree in astronomy or astrophysics after participating in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the summer of 2016.

Bindl has been heavily involved in community activities and extra-curricular activities at RVC and Belvidere North High School, holding officer positions in many organizations. Some of her extracurricular activities are listed below:

## **Rock Valley College**

Omicron Eta Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Vice President of Leadership  
Annual College Project and Honors in Action Project  
Relay for Life, Rockford's Light the Night Walk, RVC's 50th Anniversary Celebration  
Math, Engineering, Physics, and Astronomy Club RVC (Treasurer)

## **Community**

Volunteering at local food pantries, managing clothing and food drives at the school, and participating in roadside cleanups to fulfill requirements of several honor societies that she participates in through BNHS (while also attending RVC full time): Spanish Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, English National Honor Society, and the National Honor Society.

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