

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DUAL IMMERSION TEACHER CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FOR BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS.**

BLAINE COUNTY, IDAHO – Blaine County School District high school seniors who participated in the Dual Immersion program can now apply for scholarship funds through the Blaine County Education Foundation to help support their higher education goals.

Raul Vandenberg, a Wood River Middle School Dual Immersion Social Studies Teacher, came forth with the idea to start a scholarship for Dual Immersion graduates who have demonstrated outstanding performance in the program during their public school career. “These students are doing something extraordinary and it is worth recognizing them and their effort,” says Vandenberg. Vandenberg’s vision and generosity inspired his colleagues and community members to come forth and contribute to the scholarship fund - making a true grassroots, community sponsored scholarship.

“This new scholarship is right in line with the mission of the Blaine County Education Foundation,” says Jennifer Haemmerle, BCEF Board Chair. “This particular scholarship opportunity is quite remarkable and demonstrates the power of individuals coming together in support of our students. Blaine County teachers already give so much - what Vandenberg and others are doing is above and beyond the call of duty and speaks to the deep commitment they have to our students and their success.”

Students enrolled in the Dual Immersion Program (from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) learn all of their subjects in both Spanish and English. Now in its twelfth year, this will be the first year that Blaine County students are graduating from the Dual Immersion Program. “The Blaine County Education Foundation Board of Directors is thrilled to administer this scholarship opportunity to recognize the Dual Immersion students who bravely pioneered this way of learning,” says Jennifer Card, BCEF Fund Development Committee Chair.

Only Blaine County School District high school students (WRHS, Carey & Silver Creek) are eligible to apply. In addition to a grade point average of 3.0 or above, students must submit two letters of recommendation along with an essay about how the Dual Immersion Program provided a benefit to them during their school career or how they intend to use their dual language skills in the future. A committee comprised of scholarship donors, as well as community and faculty members, will screen applicants and select finalists. The award recipients will be announced at the academic award reception in the spring.

The Dual Immersion Scholarship is just one of about a dozen scholarship opportunities that are available to students through the Blaine Education Foundation each year. Last school year BCEF administered approximately \$20,000 in scholarship funds. To find out how you can contribute to the Dual Immersion Scholarship or any other BCEF program, please visit [www.supportbcef.org](http://www.supportbcef.org).

**About The Blaine County Education Foundation:** The Blaine County Education Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to focus community resources and raise funds for the Blaine County Schools in order to promote academic excellence, equitable education and a healthy student environment. For more information on the Blaine County Education Foundation, please contact Kathleen McCabe, Executive Director, at (208) 578-5449 or visit our website at [www.supportbcef.org](http://www.supportbcef.org).

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