

**Make a gift today!**

The Marshalltown Education Partnership (MEP) is a collaboration between students and their families, educators and community supporters to ensure a strong citizenry for Marshalltown. The program first launched in 2006 with a group of eight students. Currently, it serves more than 350 high school and college students. It is through generous contributions that we continue to provide support for youth by helping them achieve post-secondary education.

**You can help students go to college!**

**Give to:**

- The MEP fund that helps students **today** with scholarships and mentoring. *(A gift to this fund is tax deductible.)*
- The MEP Endowment is a permanent fund which will **assure scholarship funds for years to come**. *(A gift to this fund is eligible for the Endow Iowa 25% Tax Credit in addition to the normal federal tax deduction.)*
- A variety of giving options are available including (but not limited to) cash, stocks or bonds, and gifts of grain or farmland.
- A bequest could create a personal legacy for you or your family, and is an easy way to help in the future.
- These funds are part of the Family of Funds managed by the Community Foundation of Marshall County, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

**Contact:** Mia Barajas, MEP Program Coordinator  
 Marshalltown Community College | Room 111C  
 3700 S. Center St., Marshalltown, IA 50158  
 Mia.Barajas@iavalley.edu  
 641-844-5798

**Giving to the Marshalltown Education Partnership**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation to the MEP Fund to help today: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation to the MEP Endowment to help tomorrow:  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(Eligible for Endow Iowa 25% Tax Credit)*

I would like to make a multiple year pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Make checks payable either to "Marshalltown Education Partnership Fund" or "Marshalltown Education Partnership Endowment."

Mail to: Community Foundation of Marshall County, 709 South Center Street, Suite 131, Marshalltown, IA 50158.  
 Phone 641-758-3028

**Making a difference!**

For nearly 20 years, the Marshalltown Education Partnership program (MEP) has made an impact on approximately 5,000 Marshalltown High School students. Through support services and the use of scholarships, the program has shown success, with its scholars achieving a 60% graduation rate from Marshalltown Community College (MCC).

The program is unique due to the collaboration between the Marshalltown Community School District, MCC, and businesses and organizations throughout the community that commit funds to expand educational opportunities for first-generation students. The fundraising process involves reaching out to former and new potential donors in Marshalltown to help fund the program. Two of the founding contributors, Emerson and Martha Ellen Tye, have already committed \$250,000 each over the length of 5 years. MEP will also showcase success stories of past scholars, and the impact of the scholarship on their lives and on Marshalltown.

By engaging the community and demonstrating the importance of the program, these efforts can inspire generous contributions. Every dollar raised helps to alleviate the financial burden on students, allowing them to focus on their studies and future aspirations. MEP is a powerful way to support students in achieving their educational goals.



MEP Fund



SCAN ME

MEP Endow Iowa Fund



SCAN ME

Donate to support MEP students

**MCC Provost, Matt Schmit, PhD**

*"As we look to the next chapter of the Marshalltown Education Partnership, our focus is on expanding opportunities for every student in our community. The past success of MEP shows what can happen when education, business, and philanthropy work together. Now, we're building on that foundation—broadening pathways into both college transfer and skilled trades programs, strengthening mentorship, and ensuring every Marshalltown graduate sees a future that includes higher education and meaningful career options."*



## Our Mission

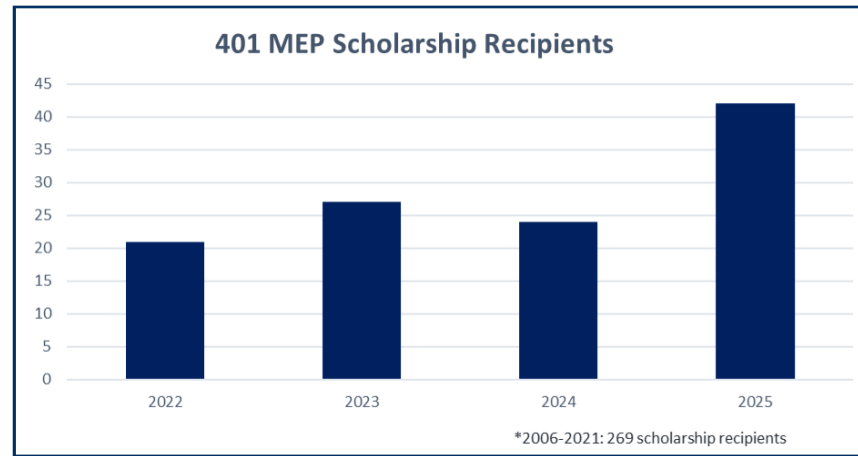
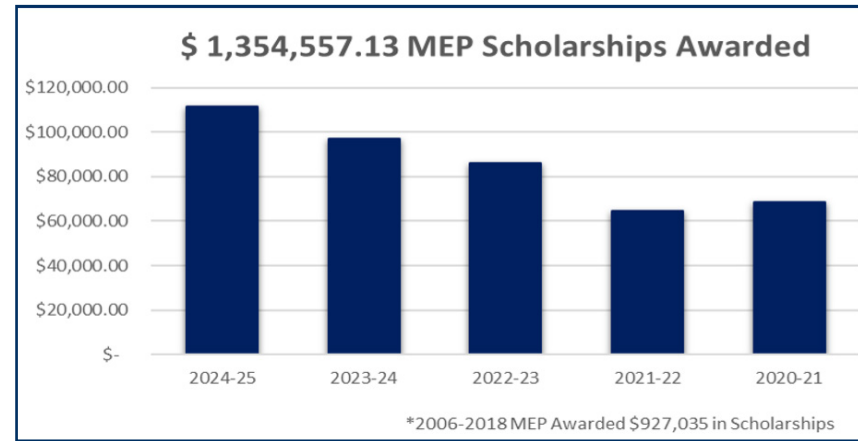
The Marshalltown Education Partnership (MEP) is doing our part in contributing to Marshalltown's economic development efforts. Our goal is to help sustain Marshalltown as a "Best in Class" community. MEP is dedicated to educating students about postsecondary education.

## Scholarship Requirements

- Be accepted into the MEP program
- Maintain a 90% attendance rate
- Graduate from Marshalltown High School with a minimum 2.75 GPA or be ranked in the top half of their graduating class
- Maintain a 90% attendance rate plus 2.75 GPA for MCC coursework within approved pathway (selective courses).

## MEP Goals

- Students will meet the MEP scholarship requirements.
- Students will enroll in a postsecondary institution.
- MEP students attending MCC will complete either a certificate or/and an associate's degree.

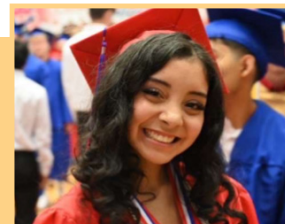


*"Credits to the MEP coordinator at the time (the position is now held by Mia Barajas) for holding me accountable, encouraging me to apply for scholarships and completing all the necessary paperwork to obtain financial assistance"*

MEP Class of 2011,  
Kimberly Becerra- Marshalltown School Resource Specialist

*"MEP helped me throughout high school to create and learn what route I wanted to pursue after high school. MEP will help me at MCC the same way, while also being a big help in providing a way for me to afford going to college."*

MEP Class of 2025,  
Natalie Corral Coronado



In the past 19 years, MEP has granted scholarships to 341 students to attend Marshalltown Community College!

## Welcome to MEP

A huge welcome to the newest members of our Marshalltown Education Program (MEP) leadership! We are excited to welcome our new MEP Coordinator, Mia Barajas, and our new MEP Co-Chairs, Karina Hernandez and Michelle Burgess.

We look forward to your leadership and contributions!

## 2025 MEP Scholarship Recipients



MEP is currently serving 322 students at Marshalltown High School:

- 82 seniors • 76 juniors • 96 sophomores • 68 freshman

## Thank you Terry Buzbee!



Terry Buzbee's unwavering dedication to educational opportunity is a legacy we celebrate. For two decades, Terry has been deeply involved with the Marshalltown Education Partnership Program (MEP), a journey that began when he personally helped launch the program in Marshalltown. Through his commitment and passion, Terry has helped shape countless opportunities for students, providing the steady guidance and support necessary for them to succeed in higher education. His work has been a cornerstone of MEP's continued growth and profound community impact.

As Terry officially steps down from the MEP Steering Committee, we want to express our deepest gratitude for his remarkable contributions. His impact will continue to inspire our work and, most importantly, the students whose lives he has touched and transformed. Thank you, Terry, for your tireless dedication to education and the Marshalltown community.

### Board Members

- Mia Barajas, MEP Coordinator
- Michelle Burgess, Emerson-Fisher
- Karina Hernandez, Community Leader
- Abigail Hillers, Brown Winick Law
- Angela Fritz, Emerson-Fisher
- Keith Sink Emerson/Fisher
- Heidi Dalal, Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation
- Dr. Matt Schmit, Marshalltown Community College
- Nate Chua, Marshalltown Community College
- Shari King, Unity Point Health
- Justin Boliver, Marshalltown Community School District
- Rebecca Whalen, Marshalltown High School
- Dr. Theron Schutte, Marshalltown Community School District
- Kate Bowermaster, Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce

### Foundation Sponsors

- Emerson-Fisher
- Marshalltown Community College
- Marshalltown Community Schools
- Martha-Ellen Tye Foundation
- Lennox Manufacturing
- UnityPoint Health- Marshalltown
- Mechdyne
- Marshalltown Company

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