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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MES FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$300,000 TO MAINE STUDENTS

Alfred, Maine – June 27, 2025 – MES Foundation (MES) announced today the winners of the Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholarship, which totaled \$300,000 in awards to 15 Maine students. Established in honor of MES founder, Dick Pierce, who passed away in 2011, this scholarship is awarded based on distinguished academic merit and financial need.

“While I’m committed to achieving my goal of becoming a physical therapist, financial obstacles make it challenging,” said Pierce Scholar Chad Lazaro. Chad is a graduate from Vinalhaven School and will be attending the University of New England for applied exercise science. Chad reflected upon how growing up in a small island community shaped him into a resilient, resourceful person with a deep appreciation for family and community. School staff shared that Chad is one of those rare kids that you get to work with during your career and has demonstrated resilience at a young age that few students have been asked to overcome.

“MES is proud to continue Mr. Pierce’s legacy by investing in the future of Maine students like Chad,” said Kristie Hurlburt, Executive Director. In 2017, MES Foundation greatly expanded its scholarship program and to-date has awarded \$1.6 million in scholarships to Maine students.

MES will accept on-line scholarship applications beginning January 1, 2026 through April 1, 2026 for the 2026/2027 academic year at www.mesfoundation.org.

Richard H. Pierce Memorial Scholarship Winners:

Otto Cronk – Morse High School
Emily Frechette – Biddeford High School
Cailin Henry – Wells High School
Jadin Ireland – Nokomis Regional High School
Chad Lazaro – Vinalhaven School
Jade McCollett – Erskine Academy
Charlotte Merrill – Leavitt Area High School
Lauren Millett – Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School
Isaiah Perodin – Marshwood High School
Kallie Richards – Lawrence High School
Abigail Rounds – Winthrop High School
Isabelle Roos – Washington Academy
Alivia Strickland – Hyde School
Rylee Vanscoy – Bucksport High School
Lily Werntgen – Fort Kent Community High School

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MES Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering and promoting higher education.

