Scholarships not only offer financial assistance, they are an award for the hard work we as students dedicate to our college careers... (It) has given me confidence, and pride in myself as a student and a leader at UW-River Falls.”

For more information:
UWRF Foundation, 301 South Hall
400 S. Third Street
River Falls, WI 54022
(715) 425-3505

The Falcon Scholars program brings with it the ability to enrich learning for UWRF students, to raise the academic standards among undergraduates; and to support engagement and excellence among faculty and staff.
The Falcon Scholars program is key to Rising to Distinction, as it deepens relationships between undergraduates and faculty, while providing opportunities to broaden horizons through study abroad and hands-on learning.

The focal points of Falcon Scholars are examples of what higher education research leaders refer to as “high impact practices” in producing greater student success, especially among students with financial need. High impact practices of undergraduate research and global learning increase student retention, improve graduation rates and enhance the academic environment. Success breeds success.

After several years, we expect to see a change in the university and its profile—with more students selecting UWRF as their “first choice” institution.

1. Huge need for scholarship support: UWRF students hailing from Wisconsin have the 2nd lowest family income in the UW System.

2. Student and employer market demand: There is a huge appetite among incoming students and employers for graduates with heightened expectations, maturing experiences, and diverse perspectives.

3. A catalyst for impact: Falcon Scholars hold the key to enhancing the culture of the whole university. Simply stated: this initiative enables us to attract more students, which in turn expands opportunities for research and scholarship, which in turn propels graduates’ ability to excel and succeed.

Developed in partnership with the UW-River Falls Student Senate, the Falcon Scholars program brings with it the ability to enrich learning (and, therefore, employment relevance and leadership capacity) for UWRF students, to raise the academic standards among undergraduates, and to support engagement and excellence among faculty and staff.

Upon admission, incoming freshman students having a record of academic success and demonstrated financial need may apply to become a Falcon Scholar through a rigorous interview. Qualifying students who continue to maintain a 2.75 GPA will be offered renewable, four-year scholarship support ($1,000/year, $4,000 total), funded by donors. Differential tuition funds of $2,000 will be used to support Falcon Scholar study abroad (e.g., Scotland, Taiwan, China, or Kenya) and/or participation in undergraduate research, scholarly or creative activity.

Students—especially first-generation students and those with significant financial need—benefit in multiple ways. First, this initiative makes unique educational opportunities available to many more students across a range of academic colleges and disciplines. Second, it reduces students’ need to pursue off-campus jobs, thereby amplifying academic focus. Third, expanded opportunities come while keeping UWRF affordable.

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Take the Albrecht Challenge

UWRF alumni Arlin ’58 and Marilyn ’56 Albrecht have established the Albrecht Challenge as a matching fund for gifts to Falcon Scholars. Over the next four years, the Albrechts will match gifts of $1,000 or more to Falcon Scholars up to $400,000 — or half the funding needed.

It is an extraordinary opportunity to support future Falcons!