



The Hillsdale College
Independence Club

PURSuing TRUTH • DEFENDING LIBERTY SINCE 1844



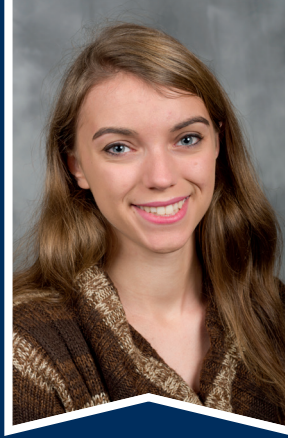


HILLSDALE COLLEGE

A BEACON OF INDEPENDENCE

For 173 years, Hillsdale College has understood better than any other college in America the importance of educating for liberty. A liberal education sets one free to fulfill his or her service to family, community, country, and God. From its humble beginnings on the Michigan frontier to its place today as a nationally recognized liberal arts college, Hillsdale has offered the kind of education set forth by its founders in the College mission statement: “to furnish all persons who wish, irrespective of nation, color, or sex, a literary, scientific, [and] theological education’ outstanding among American colleges ‘and to combine with this such moral and social instruction as will best develop the minds and improve the hearts of its pupils.’” True to this mission, Hillsdale was the first college in Michigan and the second in America to graduate women and was educating qualified women and black Americans even before the Civil War.





Jenna Wiita, '20

HILLSDALE INDEPENDENCE GRANT RECIPIENT

Jenna Wiita says coming to Hillsdale has set her career plans in stone: She wants to teach English in a public school. The sophomore has begun working on an English major and Spanish and classical education minors. At Hillsdale, Wiita says, she has found professors and peers who love learning as much as she does.

“The teachers here have really inspired me to want to be a teacher, because I see the way they teach, and I think, ‘Wow, I want to do that for other people,’” Wiita says.

Wiita was impressed by her admissions counselors’ questions about the pursuit of truth when she visited the College. After she enrolled, that pursuit intensified, especially in her Great Books I class with Justin Jackson. It was in that class that Wiita decided she should teach English. Wiita says she would like to teach middle grades in a public school, because “that’s where the need is greatest.”

“Especially with English, I think it’s sometimes cast off as something useless. But it’s a way of understanding human nature in a way that no other study can do,” Wiita says. “For kids, I would love to be the person to show them how powerful that can be. That’s very grandiose, but I also just love working with kids.”

Wiita says her financial aid has made it possible for her to consider Hillsdale and a career in public education. “I wouldn’t be able to afford Hillsdale if I didn’t have financial aid,” she says. “When I saw my financial aid package, that’s when I thought, ‘Oh, Hillsdale is really an option.’”

The aid of professors and donors allows Wiita to study, participate in the dance program, and teach others to pursue truth.

“I just really love learning, and that’s one of the reasons I came to Hillsdale,” Wiita says. “And I want to help other people love learning, too.”

STUDENT INDEPENDENCE

GRANT AND LOAN FUND

As Hillsdale College begins its 33rd year of direct competition against the thousands of colleges and universities subsidized by billions of federal taxpayer dollars and politicized by federal programs and regulations, it seems appropriate to review its historic stand for independence—its importance, its rationale, and its future.

In 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Grove City v. Bell* that any educational institution enrolling even one student using federal taxpayer funds would classify as a “recipient” of those funds and become subject to the entire range of federal regulations. Hillsdale’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to notify the Department of Education that not a single Hillsdale student would accept so much as one cent of federal financial aid for grants, loans, or scholarships.

Hillsdale responded by creating the privately financed Student Independence Grant and Loan Fund (SIGLF) to partially replace all federal taxpayer-funded grants and loans. Each year, money from SIGLF assists hundreds of deserving students who believe in and seek the kind of classical liberal arts education offered at Hillsdale. In the 1985-1986 school year, \$276,263 in Independence Loans and Grants went to 185 recipients. In the 2016-2017 school year, 587 Hillsdale students received over \$6 million in Independence Loans, Independence Grants, and Hillsdale Tradition Awards—one-half tuition scholarships for solid “B” students who demonstrate substantial financial need, do not qualify for merit-based aid, and comply with the award’s work and volunteer requirements. Since 1985, Hillsdale’s historic default rate among all recipients of Independence Loans has averaged at or below one percent.

Since the fall of 2007, Hillsdale College has replaced State of Michigan grants and scholarships with privately funded awards, making the College completely independent of taxpayer support.

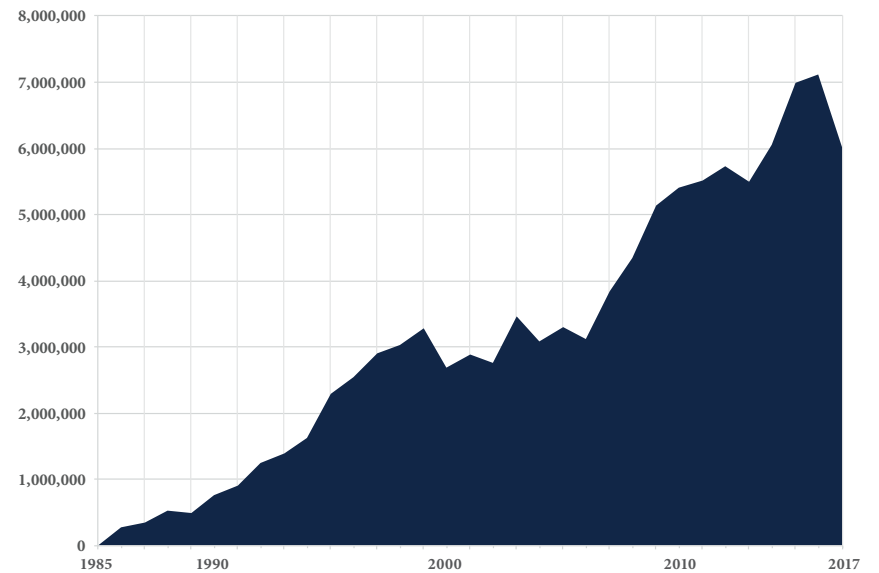
This year, Hillsdale turned away approximately \$6 million in federal and

state financial aid because of its principled independence—but that independence is constantly under threat. Our government today routinely passes unconstitutional laws like the Dodd-Frank Act. This law created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is not accountable to Congress, the president, or the American people. It has the authority to regulate every financial transaction in the country, posing a serious threat to the liberty of all.

Hillsdale faces this challenge while competing with other colleges and universities that eagerly grab federal aid handouts. When Hillsdale made the brave decision 33 years ago to replace federal aid with private monies, many said it could not be done. Thanks to the help of alumni, parents, and friends, Hillsdale has maintained its independence and continues to rise to the challenge today, growing stronger in the process and becoming nationally recognized as a top liberal arts college.



THE PRICE OF INDEPENDENCE Annual Cost of Replacing Federal Taxpayer Aid, 1985-2017



The cost of replacing federal taxpayer aid has risen dramatically since the 1984 conclusion of Hillsdale's legal battle to preserve its independence.

Projected Replacement Cost for Academic Year 2017-2018: \$5,850,000
Total Replacement Cost since 1985: \$104,607,404

FACTS THAT FIGURE

Since the Student Independence Grant and Loan Fund was established in 1985, Hillsdale College has grown into one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the country, as the following statistics show.

	1986	2017
Full-time Enrollment (Undergraduate)	1,012	1,463
Full-time Faculty	68	137
Full-time Faculty with Terminal Degrees	68%	94%
Endowed Faculty Chairs	5	35
Student Board Scores (Average): ACT	21	30
Student Board Scores (Average): SAT	930	1347
Average Entering Student High School GPA	3.0	3.87
Number of Applicants	1,070	2,403
Placement (Six months after graduation)	90%	98%*
Scholarships and Grants Awarded	\$2,508,666	\$26,742,422
Percentage of Incoming Students from Michigan	61%	30%
Library Total Volumes	128,959	2,558,104
<i>Imprimis</i> Subscribers	126,000	3,700,000
Buildings	32	75
Total Square Footage	593,171	1,349,774

*Class of 2016



Joseph Siler, '19

HILLSDALE INDEPENDENCE GRANT RECIPIENT

Joseph Siler admired Hillsdale's independence from government intervention, but it was the College's economics program that really sold him—in particular, the curriculum's emphasis on the Austrian School of economic thought, not to mention the fact that Austrian economist Ludwig von Mises' personal library is housed on campus. In addition to a strong academic program, Siler also found an authentic, caring community of professors and peers.

While he loves his economics classes, Siler considers the Western and American Heritage core courses the most influential of his classes. "Economics is very methodical," he says. "You're breaking down human activity into numbers. In my Heritage classes, however, I learned about human dignity and what it means to be human. You learn what you can be now; the returns are immediate."

Siler puts his economics coursework into practice through the College's Investment Club. "The College gave the club \$35,000 of the school's endowment to manage so we can learn firsthand about the market," he says. He also participates in Praxis, a political and economic discussion group, and he plays intramural sports. Last summer, he completed an internship with Washington State Senator Steve O'Ban. Siler is interested in how government action affects markets, and while he is still weighing his career options, he would like to pursue those interests.

For Siler, Hillsdale's financial aid allows him to devote his full attention to his studies without anxiety. "I have two brothers who are also in college, so having this financial aid takes a large burden off my family," he says.

While it's natural for an economics major to want to put a price tag on everything, Siler says, he considers his Hillsdale education priceless. "A Hillsdale education is invaluable," he says. "The pursuit of truth at Hillsdale helps you to understand the world better and shows you how to live well."

THE INDEPENDENCE CLUB

ENSURING EXCELLENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

For more than 40 years, the Independence Club has been Hillsdale's annual fundraising campaign, supporting the College's mission of institutional independence and academic excellence for current and future students. Independence Club members may choose to support the Student Independence Grant and Loan Fund or faculty salaries and enrichment, library acquisitions, and Hillsdale's many outstanding academic programs. Each year, thousands of alumni, friends, and parents of students contribute generously. In 2016-2017, over 900 Independence Club members provided more than \$2 million in support of Hillsdale's independence and other College needs.

The Independence Club, vital to the College's success for more than 40 years, will continue to play a key role for decades to come.

The four participation levels of the Independence Club are outlined below. We encourage you to join other Independence Club members who are preserving Hillsdale College's commitment to pursuing truth and defending liberty.

- Independence Benefactors strengthen Hillsdale's resolve to promote the principles of liberty and to safeguard its own independence with leadership gifts of \$1,000 to \$1,499 annually.
- Independence Founders demonstrate a deep understanding of the College's mission and a strong commitment to its success with gifts of \$500 to \$999.
- Independence Friends support Hillsdale's privately funded liberal arts preparation with gifts of \$250 to \$499.
- Independence Patrons endorse Hillsdale's chartered mission with gifts of \$100 to \$249.

Please review the enclosed pledge card and select the Independence Club participation level you wish to support, along with the gift designation you choose. Then return the card, with your check, in the envelope provided. You may also donate online, with a money order, or a credit card (secure).

Thank you for supporting independent, classical liberal arts education at Hillsdale College. You are making a very real difference.

Separate from the Independence Club, the Hillsdale College President's Club recognizes and honors individuals whose pledged commitment to the College totals a minimum of \$15,000 in cash or planned gifts either outright or over a period of ten years. The typical minimum President's Club annual gift is \$1,500. There are six levels of membership: Traditional, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, and Diamond. Corporate matching funds apply dollar-for-dollar toward all participation levels. For detailed information about The President's Club, check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply card.



THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB AND INDEPENDENCE CLUB

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hillsdale.edu/support/presidents-club



Emilia Heider, '19

HILLSDALE TRADITION AWARD RECIPIENT



While Emilia Heider's older sister Rachel was attending Hillsdale, Emilia saw and heard from her sister how Hillsdale was more than a school: it was a community of people dedicated to helping one another grow in all facets of life. "Hillsdale was a formative part of my life even before I enrolled," Heider says. "I knew I didn't want to go anywhere else."

Heider intended to follow her sister's lead as a history and German major. She remembers her very first college class with Professor of History Brad Birzer. "I learned that studying history is about much more than learning about our heritage," she says. "You learn about the human condition and human dignity. What I learned in Western Heritage still influences me today." But, as she studied the Great Books with Professor of English Justin Jackson in her core English classes, Heider realized that she loved the challenge of reading and analyzing literature. She declared an English major and later added an art major after discovering how much she enjoyed the creativity it allows.

Heider puts her creativity to use as a photographer for the College's Marketing Department and for Young Americans for Freedom. She says her dream job would be to work as a photographer, although she has not ruled out becoming a teacher. She volunteers at Mary Randall Preschool, an experience she loves because she "gets to see the world through a child's eyes."

Like her sister, Heider has embraced the community she has found at Hillsdale and is grateful for the financial aid package that allows her to attend. "I get to study amazing things and learn from professors, students, even the preschoolers," she says. "I've matured and learned how to live well. Hillsdale's community has strengthened and equipped me so that I can enrich others' lives."

ABOUT HILLSDALE COLLEGE

Founded in 1844, Hillsdale College is an independent, coeducational, residential liberal arts college with a student body of about 1,460. Its four-year curriculum leads to a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree, and it is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Hillsdale's educational mission rests upon two principles: academic excellence and institutional independence. The College does not accept federal or state taxpayer subsidies for any of its operations.

Located in rural southern Michigan, the nearly 400-acre Hillsdale campus includes both modern and historic buildings. Excellent facilities include comfortable residence halls, a state-of-the-art health education and sports complex, Michael Alex Mossey Library with its Leighton-Taylor Wing, Sage Center for the Arts, Howard Music Hall, Kendall and Lane Halls, the Grewcock Student Union, Margot V. Biermann Athletic Center, and the Joseph H. Moss Family Laboratory Wing of Strosacker Science Center. Adjacent to the campus is the model primary and secondary school, Hillsdale Academy, whose comprehensive *Reference Guide* is used in schools throughout the country.

An ideal student-to-faculty ratio of 10-to-1, rigorous academics, intramural sports, national fraternity and sorority houses, and widespread community

volunteerism nurture intellectual, physical, social, and personal growth. A broad perspective is encouraged through opportunities for off-campus internships, overseas study programs, and educational programs sponsored by the Center for Constructive Alternatives, Ludwig von Mises Lectures in free market economics, National Leadership Seminars, and the Hoogland Center for Teacher Excellence. Hillsdale also publishes *Imprimis*, its national speech digest, with a readership exceeding 3.7 million.



Hillsdale College's Declaration of Independence, adopted in 1962

In 2008, the College founded the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C., and in 2012 it launched the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship, offering both an M.A. and a Ph.D. program in Politics.



Henry Deese, '20

HILLSDALE TRADITION AWARD RECIPIENT

Henry Deese is a sophomore biology major and chemistry minor from South Elgin, Illinois. He says he chose Hillsdale because of the quality of the education.

“I knew the education I would receive would be excellent,” Deese says. “A large part of this is the student-to-faculty ratio, which allows for focused attention and help with my studies.”

He says the Biology Department was especially impressive. “After meeting with the Biology Department prior to committing to Hillsdale, I learned of the many opportunities that they offer students, such as working in the various labs, as well as summer options like working at the Gordon Biostation,” Deese says.

After graduation, Deese wants to be a conservation ecologist, favoring nonprofit work at a place such as the Nature Conservancy. He plans to attend graduate school.

Deese also says that financial aid played a major factor in his decision to come to Hillsdale. “What sealed my decision was the academic scholarship I received. I would not be able to attend Hillsdale without my financial aid,” Deese says. “I’ve had to pay for my education entirely on my own, and the aid I receive allows me to do that without incurring massive student loan debt. All the while, I receive a high quality education.”

In addition to his involvement with the Biology and Chemistry Departments, Deese is a member of Hillsdale’s debate team, continuing an activity he enjoyed in high school as a team captain of a homeschool debate team. He placed as an octa-finalist for Hillsdale’s debate team in an Open Lincoln-Douglas competition this year at Western Kentucky University.



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