



Four River Foundation Program

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Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton and Fulton Independent Schools
 Four Rivers Career Academy, Mayfield/Graves ATC, Ballard County CTC
 Murray State University and West Kentucky Community and Technical College
 2010-2018

Rudolph’s Readers--Believing that strong reading skills lead to success, Robbie and Lisa Rudolph created Rudolph’s Readers which gives a free book to every child in grades P-4 in the five elementary schools the foundation serves. Since 2010, over 2000 books have been purchased and distributed to students prior to their Christmas Break. Robbie encourages the students to read the books, share them with their siblings and exchange them with each other to foster a strong reading culture in the schools and homes of our students. K-PREP scores showed us that this was an area of need.

Four Rivers Reading Project—A Pilot program this year, the Four Rivers Reading Project is working with three of the five schools, (Fulton, Fulton Independent, and Hickman), MSU’s Dr. Christina Grant, WKEC’s reading specialist, Holly Bloodworth to implement a reading intervention program in K-4, targeted at 3rd and 4th graders. The goal is to have students reading on grade level before they advance to middle school. The foundation has also partnered with Brook’s Chapel’s summer program and afterschool program, JUMP, to provide resources and services to students who attend.

Career Exploration--Deciding what a person wants “to be” when he or she grows up is a daunting task. There are so many choices of different fields one can choose from. Career Fairs and Career Days are encouraged and supported by the foundation in grades 5-9 to help students explore the many different career opportunities. Representatives from banks, businesses, agriculture, culinary, medical, government, social work, journalism, education and service fields came to the five schools and discuss their jobs, careers, and vocations. In conjunction with Operation Preparation and other local school programs, an emphasis is placed on being college and/or career ready by the time each senior graduate. An emphasis on individual college/career paths is done through counseling, job shadowing, visits to the area technology center, arts and humanities programs and internships. CCR scores are vastly improving. Summer Camps and CTE Days have been added to make students aware of the different career and technical pathways that are available to them.

<u>CCR Scores</u> <u>School District</u>	<u>Carlisle County</u>	<u>Fulton County</u>	<u>Fulton</u> <u>Independent</u>	<u>Hickman County</u>	<u>Ballard County</u>
<u>2011-12 CCR Scores</u>	73.5	44.8	44.8	91.8	52.1%
<u>2016-17 CCR Scores</u>	100	100	79.5	96.4	81.0%

Dual Credit-- Providing financial assistance to the Ballard County Bombers Academy, Carlisle County Comet Scholars, Fulton County Pilot Academy, the Fulton Independent Bulldog Academy, the Hickman County Falcon Academy, the Fulton County Area Technology Center, the Mayfield/Graves County ATC, the Ballard County CTC, and the Four Rivers MSU Thoroughbred Academy has ensured that all students know how to earn high ACT scores, fill out the FAFSA for eligible financial support, enroll in the college of their choice, find applicable scholarships, earn industry certifications, and take both online and in-class courses using the support tools available to successfully meet their post-secondary and vocational goals. Each school has its own academy and community and business sponsors to provide additional funding for their dual credit programs.

<u>Dual Credit Data</u> <u>School District</u>	<u>Carlisle County</u>	<u>Fulton County</u>	<u>Fulton Independent</u>	<u>Hickman County</u>	<u>Ballard County</u>
<u>2011-12 Hours Earned</u>	477	417	150	857	
<u>2016-17 Hours Earned</u>	703	473	158	790	596

Industry Certifications—Preparing students for the work force is a necessary part of being a work ready community. For the past three years, the foundation has paid for the industry certification tests allowing more students to take the certification tests needed to advance on to WKCTC, MSU, other colleges, or to the workplace with certifications and skills necessary to be work ready. The number of students earning industry certification has doubled from 40-80 in the last three years with students being placed in jobs prior to high school graduation and/or using their certification to help them work while finishing their degrees. Certifications can be earned at the Fulton County Area Technology Center, Ballard County CTC, and the Mayfield/Graves County ATC in medical sciences, business, carpentry, auto mechanics, welding, machine tool, and information technology. Two of the high schools also have dual credit agriculture programs through a partnership with MSU and one school has a career path in broadcasting. New courses in computer coding, drones, and advanced manufacturing are being offered this year.

Four Rivers Scholarships--Overcoming financial barriers can be a deterrent to going to college. The Four Rivers Scholarship Program provide supplemental scholarships to students who have financial needs. These scholarships are awarded only to students who presently graduate from the four river schools and supplement other financial scholarships/grants/loans of the students. Since 2010, 190 students have been awarded scholarships from the four high schools for students to receive four times a year until they graduate. Several dollars have been awarded to these 190 students with a 74% retention and completion rate.

For More Information, contact:

Dianne Owen, Director of the Four Rivers Foundation at patriciaowen50@gmail.com or by cell at 270-994-0901