



# NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL

Accelerating Achievement  
Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day

## Spring 2019



### NICOLET KNIGHTS NEWS

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Nicolet School District

Issued June 2019—Volume 12: Published three times per year by  
The Nicolet Union High School District, 6701 North Jean Nicolet Road, Glendale, WI 53217



It's hard to believe, but the end of another school year is fast approaching. Spring is one of the busiest times of year at Nicolet and a time filled with some of the most exciting honors with this year being no exception. Notably, Nicolet was named to the US News and World Report's list of Best High Schools. Nicolet placed 13th in the state and among the top three percent nationally.

This accomplishment is due to many instances of hard work and dedication of our students and staff academically, athletically and artistically throughout the academic year. We are proud to share these accomplishments with you in our annual spring newsletter and we hope you will join us in congratulating our outstanding students and staff on this honor.

As always, I encourage all district residents to follow Nicolet High School on Facebook and Twitter as a source of timely information and updates. Visiting the Nicolet website regularly is also a great way to stay up-to-date.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as the superintendent of the kind, tenacious and bright students at Nicolet High School. Although I will be leaving Nicolet at the end of this school year after six years as superintendent, I continue to be thankful for the support and hard work of so many people, especially our students and staff.

I'm thrilled to share that I will be succeeded by Dr. Greg Kabara, current Nicolet High School Principal. Dr. Kabara is an incredible asset to the Nicolet community and will make a tremendous superintendent. Please read his letter to the community on the following page of this newsletter. Page three will introduce Nicolet's new principal, Mr. Thomas Dorgan.

Although change can be difficult at times, it also comes with the exciting opportunity to take a fresh look at ways to further strengthen and improve any program or organization. I'm confident that Dr. Kabara and Mr. Dorgan will continue to build upon the firm tradition of success at Nicolet in the years to come.

Please know I have been truly honored to be the Nicolet Superintendent and I will cherish the memories we've created and the success we've achieved.

Yours in education,

Robert Kobylski, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**June 5:** NHS Foundation meeting  
7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. at Nicolet High School

**June 5:** "Chorcesta" concert  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

**June 8:** PTSO Cookies & Cram  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

**June 11-14:** Exams

**June 16:** Graduation  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Miller High Life Theatre  
(formerly the Milwaukee Theatre)

**June 18:** Summer school begins  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Nicolet High School

More dates are available at [www.nicolet.us](http://www.nicolet.us).

Stay up-to-date on all the latest Nicolet happenings and events by following us on social media.

 @NicoletKnights

 /NicoletHighSchool



## CONGRATS, NICOLET!

NAMED ONE OF THE TOP  
HIGH SCHOOLS IN WI BY  
US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT



NICOLET RANKED #13 IN THE STATE,  
SCORING 97/100 POINTS



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Greetings Nicolet families,

I'm delighted to draft this letter as I transition from principal to superintendent of the Nicolet Union High School District. Over the past six years, I've witnessed students embody the character of a Nicolet Knight: diligently pursuing academic, athletic and artistic success and treating others with compassion and respect. Even through difficult times, our students and staff maintain the strength and kindness of Nicolet Knights. I'm proud to be part of a team and community that works hard and treats each other in such high regard.

I anticipate many more memorable moments with Nicolet students and staff as I take on the new role of superintendent. I'm excited to continue Nicolet's pursuit of academic success for all students by continuing to work to close achievement gaps. I look forward to many more years serving and leading the Nicolet community.

It is my priority to maintain frequent and open lines of communication with the Nicolet community. In the coming months, I will be sharing opportunities to meet and to interact with myself and the new Nicolet principal, Mr. Thomas Dorgan. Be on the lookout for updates on the Nicolet Facebook page and website. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback as to how we can further improve and refine our district as we continue to pursue excellence for all students. I can be reached at [greg.kabara@nicolet.us](mailto:greg.kabara@nicolet.us) or (414) 351-7554.

Your partner in education,

Dr. Greg Kabara  
Principal

## THANK YOU!

### Nicolet congratulates our retiring teachers and staff:

John Reiels    Donna Bohn  
Sue Bolly     Patty Leeson  
Jeff Artero

## PTSO UPDATE

Thank you to all of the parents, teachers, staff and students for being involved with the PTSO! This year, the PTSO supported:

- **Homecoming:** The PTSO helped to fund homecoming events and volunteered for the homecoming parade.
- **Cookies & Cram:** The weekend before exams, the PTSO sponsors a study session for students complete with tutors and snacks donated by 25+ families.
- **Teacher & Staff Appreciation:** A team of dads organized breakfast at school with donations from 30+ families.
- **Merit Awards and Spirit Awards:** The PTSO provided \$300 for a banquet after the awards presentation. The PTSO also sponsored merit awards, given to students for participation in the Nicolet community, and spirit awards given to four seniors who demonstrate Nicolet spirit.
- **Grad Grams:** A booklet of congratulations for graduating seniors.
- **Senior Breakfast:** PTSO organizes a special celebration before graduation rehearsal with 20 parent volunteers and donations from 40+ families.
- **Nicolet Care Closet:** Donated \$250.
- **Nicolet Angel Fund:** Donated \$250 to help with field trips.
- **Nicolet Basketball:** Provided \$250 for fan buses to the basketball championship game.
- **Student Council Senior Service Day:** Donated \$500.
- **Prom:** Provided a raffle basket with a \$280 value.
- **Teacher & Staff Gift Card Drawing:** Each month, two winners receive a \$10 gift card.

If you are looking to get involved, next year we have a number of positions available. Contact us at [NicoletPTSO@gmail.com](mailto:NicoletPTSO@gmail.com)! For more information visit the website and Facebook page.

We want to give a BIG shout out and thank you to Co-President Kris Barger for her years of service to the PTSO. Alex Waltrip will be stepping into the Co-President role. Thank you!

**Traci Schwartz**, Co-President

**Kris Barger**, Outgoing Co-President

**Alex Waltrip**, Incoming Co-President

**Janice Pfaffl**, Vice President

**Brenda Stelzer**, Treasurer

**Jean Bernstein**, Secretary



## NICOLET HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The Nicolet High School Foundation continues to support academic enrichment through its grant program. This semester the Foundation funded the following:

- **\$500** to support the Taste of Fine Arts, a matinee performance of the musical for seniors.
- **\$1,000** for an AP Environmental Science field trip to Wyalusing State Park and Effigy Mounds National Monument.
- **\$235** to purchase equipment for special education.
- **\$1,500** for business education/health sciences students to participate in the Wisconsin State HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) leadership conference.
- **\$1,000** for Senior Service Day.
- **\$300** honorarium for a guest speaker in global scholars/social studies.
- **\$1,700** to purchase "Keep Going," by visiting author Austin Kleon for modern literature students.



The Foundation is looking for motivated parents and community members to assist with its efforts to provide supplemental funding to the district and grants to students and staff, as well as marketing, auction items, sponsorship, and promotion for The Big Knight Out. Contact Traci Schwartz at (414) 405-3556 or [tracimia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tracimia@sbcglobal.net) and Chris Macon at (414) 351-7561 or [chris.macon@nicolet.us](mailto:chris.macon@nicolet.us) to learn more.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Adam Butlein ('97)** appeared on Shark Tank in January for his business called "Uniform" which aims to provide uniforms to school children in Africa. Although none of the Sharks chose to invest in Uniform, Butlein approached other investors and received the funding he needed.

**Alexis Wilkinson ('11)** wrote a piece published in *The New Yorker* titled "Explaining the U.S. Holidays to Extraterrestrials."

**Edward Deshazer ('01)** established the Edward Deshazer Adversity Scholarship awarded to a Nicolet senior who has overcome adversity.

**Elizabeth "Beezie" Madden ('82)** is an Olympic equestrian working to win a bid to compete in her fifth straight Olympics and win her third gold medal.

**David Lee Miller ('73)** authored a children's book titled "The Cat Who Lived with Anne Frank," which depicts the story of Anne Frank told by a cat living with her in the famous Amsterdam annex during World War II.

**Leanne Grano ('95)** took over her father's pizza franchise, Ned's Pizza on 27th Street, which originally opened in the 1950s.

**Sara Miller ('14)** founded SODA (Student Organ Donation Advocates) to raise awareness for organ donation and honor her sister. Currently, there are nine chapters across the country.

**Tom Daugherty ('03)** is a co-owner of Gear Grove, a hand-crafted wood furniture shop in Milwaukee. One-third of Gear Grove's workforce report a disability and are given work-areas customized to accommodate their needs.

To submit an update about Nicolet alumni, please send the alum's name, graduation year and relevant information to [public.relations@nicolet.us](mailto:public.relations@nicolet.us). Submissions will be reviewed for publication in future newsletters and other district communications.

## MEET THE NEW NICOLET PRINCIPAL



We're excited to announce that **Thomas Dorgan** has been named the next Nicolet principal effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Dorgan was selected through a rigorous interview process that included a committee of more than 50 Nicolet students, parents, staff and administrators.

Mr. Dorgan holds a Master's Degree in educational leadership and administration, curriculum and instruction from Marian College and a Bachelor of Arts in history and education with a minor in communication from St. Norbert College. Currently, he is the Principal at Northern Ozaukee High School.

Mr. Dorgan impressed the committee with his student-focused mindset and his experience as an instructional leader. He will be a great addition to the Nicolet leadership team, working to continue the proud tradition of success at Nicolet.



### CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHOLARS

Seniors **Anja du Plessis** and **Octavia Grimes** were awarded the 2019 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Scholarship. Initiated in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program was created to strengthen ties between Germany and the United States. CBYX is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag, and is overseen in the U.S. by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. CBYX scholars serve as youth ambassadors for the United States, sharing our culture with Germans and bringing the German culture back to their home communities. Anja and Octavia are the 14th and 15th Nicolet German students to be selected for this program in the last 16 years!

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### NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

This spring, several students participated in the National History Day contest in Madison:

- **Haley Shamah** won fourth place in the Senior Individual Exhibit category for her project titled, Munich 1972: Tragedy Unfolding on the World Stage.
  - **Molly McVey's** documentary, Passenger Pigeon: The Tragedy of Extinction and the Triumph of Conservation, placed fourth in its category.
  - **Ethan Schupper** and **Luis McDougal's** website, The Manhattan Project: The Tragedies That Emerged from the Triumphs of Science, placed third in its category.
  - **Joyce Essuman** won the Geography Award for her senior individual website, The Sharpeville Massacre: the Precipitator of the Carnage of South African Inequality.
  - **Miah Bohlen** won the Civil Rights History Award for her senior individual documentary, Wangari Maathai: Planting Seeds of Change.
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### STATE SPANISH PRONUNCIATION CONTEST

**Twenty-three Nicolet students** participated in the American Association of Teachers of Spanish Wisconsin (AATSP-WI) State Spanish Pronunciation Contest. Overall, Nicolet won 34 first place gold medals, nine second place ribbons and two third place ribbons in five separate events: memorized narration, memorized poetry, extemporaneous narration, extemporaneous conversation, and theater. Congrats, students!

### WYALUSING STATE PARK & EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT



The **AP Environmental Science class** took an overnight trip to Wyalusing State Park & Effigy Mounds National Monument. They studied water quality, invasive species and native mussel ID, state park management and learned the natural history of the effigies and other national formations unique to the driftless region of the state.

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### LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



In March, **19 juniors** attended a conference facilitated by Youth Frontiers and learned valuable lessons in leadership. The students discussed how they can help lead and improve Nicolet.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### HOSA-FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS REGIONALS

Nicolet students had an impressive showing at their first HOSA-Future Health Professionals Regional competition. **Sophie Neu** took fourth place in medical terminology. **Mia Lee** and **Max Katz** placed second and third respectively in Medical Behavior Health and advanced to the International HOSA Leadership Competition in Orlando, Florida!



### CHICAGO FEDERAL RESERVE CHALLENGE

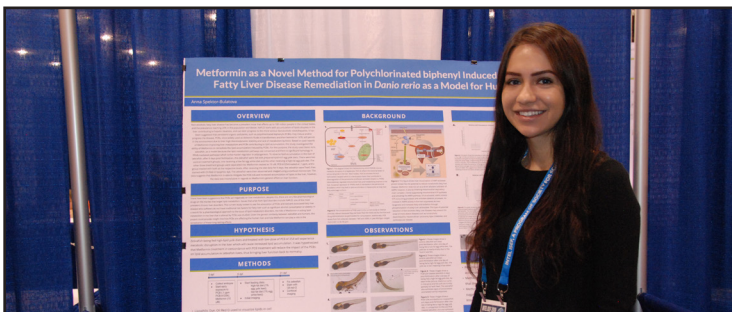


Nicolet students **Taylor Hall**, **Ambrose Ganfield**, **Yoana Petrinska**, **Nick Best** and **Joshua Anumolu** competed in the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank's Fed Challenge, an academic competition for high school students to study the U.S. economy through the perspective of the U.S. Central Bank. The team advanced to the Midwest Regional final round of the competition.

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIRS



**18 Nicolet students** competed in the Nicolet Regional Fair and 13 competed in the Badger Science and Engineering Fair. For the second year in a row, senior **Anna Spektor** won "Best of Fair" and qualified for the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix. Anna competed against thousands of students from 85 countries. Anna plans to study quantitative biology and business at University of Southern California this fall.



### 2019 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Congratulations to **Avery Mitchell** and **Benjamin Kramer** for being named 2019 National Merit® Scholars!

Avery and Benjamin were selected from over 1.6 million high school juniors across more than 22,000 high schools.

All Merit Scholar designees are chosen from the finalist group based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments. National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) selectors evaluate a variety of information: the finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the finalist's own essay.

Upon graduation from Nicolet High School, both Avery and Benjamin plan to attend Yale University in the fall of 2019. Congratulations! Nicolet is so proud of you!

# CONGRATULATIONS SENIOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

## COLLEGIATE COMMITMENT CEREMONIES

Congratulations to the following senior athletes committed to playing collegiate athletics.



- **Alex Tejero** will play soccer at Richmond University.
- **CJ Kobe** will play football at Hocking College.
- **Danny Manger** will play soccer at Lewis University.
- **Destiny Huven** will run track and field at University of Wisconsin - Madison.
- **Emma Koppa** will play tennis at Lawrence University.
- **Grace Sullivan** will play volleyball at Aurora University.
- **Jarrett Henderson** will play basketball at Marian College.
- **Jaya Williams** will play basketball at William Penn University.
- **Jordan Green** will play football at Concordia University.
- **Josie Kelderman** will play soccer at Marquette University.
- **Logan Lafferty** will play soccer at Richmond International University.
- **Matteo Quintero** will play soccer at University of Wisconsin - Parkside.
- **Miriam Maistelman** will play softball at Ithaca College.
- **Noah Glidden** will play baseball at Iowa Western Community College.
- **Parker Keckeisen** will wrestle at University of Northern Iowa.
- **Sonny Phinisee** will play basketball at Marian College.
- **Zaria Purifoy** will run track and field at North Iowa Area Community College.



## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to senior student-athletes for receiving the following scholarships and awards:

- Wrestler **Ryan Kusel** received the Frank Wolf Athletic Scholarship.
- Volleyball player **Grace Sullivan** received the Jim Sperl Athletic Scholarship.
- Volleyball player **Amanda Mlekoday** received the Eggers Imprints Most Improved Athlete scholarship.
- **B.J. Norris** was chosen as the Eggers Effort Best Buddies Future Leaders scholarship.
- Swimmer and football player **Brady Mandella** received the Jim Lubotsky Memorial Scholarship.
- **Matteo Quintero, Morgan Schiff, Anne Wirth** and **David Rosengarten** each received the William Padway Memorial Scholarship.
- State Champion tennis player **Annabelle Crowley** received the Craig R. Kahn Scholarship.
- **Abigail Hansen, Taylor Hall, Jarrett Henderson, Destiny Huven, Robert Lagerman** and **Nicholas Weseman** each received scholarships from the Nicolet Booster Club.
- **Jaya Williams** and **Sonny Phinisee** each received the Michael Janasik Basketball Scholarship.
- **Taylor Hall** and **Jaden Aranda** were named WIAA Scholar Athletes for their athletic and academic honors.
- Nicolet's most prestigious athletic scholarship, the Glen A. Kukla Memorial Scholarship, was received by Football Captain **John Quam**, Tennis State Champion **Emma Koppa**, Softball superstar **Madeline Steffes** and two-time State Wrestling Champion **Parker Keckeisen**.

The following students were named Nicolet Scholar Athletes: **Jaden Aranda, Timothy Aussem, Nikhil Bhadkamkar, Benjamin Chester, Annabelle Crowley, Colin Delvecchio, Zachary Dickman, Madeleine Ellegard, Ambrose Ganfield, Taylor Hall, Abigail Hansen, Olivia Haraway, Nathan Hernandez, Allyson Janowski, Eva Javers, Ryan Mitchell, Amanda Mlekoday, John Quam, Sallie Quinn, Jason Scheuer, Claudia Schneider, Zachary Schneider, Benjamin Stellhorn, Autumn Stelzer, Megan Sullivan, Troy Wagner, Theodore Wegehaupt, Nicholas Weseman** and **Olivia Weslow**.

The Nicolet Booster Club honored the following athletes with the "Knight Pride" Award: **Stefan Hinz** (Football), **Valentina Bianchini** (Girls Golf), **Emma Koppa** (Girls Tennis), **Ana Eurich** (Girls Swim/Dive), **Timmy Aussem** (Boys Soccer), **Nick Weseman** (Boys Cross Country), **Julia Rodrian** (Girls Volleyball), **Nick Peterson** (Boys Volleyball), **Alyx Holvick** (Spirit Team), **Jaya Williams** (Girls Basketball), **Sonny Phinisee** (Boys Basketball), **Morgan Schiff** (Gymnastics), **Colin Delvecchio** (Boys Hockey), **Brady Mandella** (Boys Swim/Dive), **Ryan Kusel** (Wrestling), **Zachary Dickman** (Boys Ski), **Payton Goudreau** (Boys Track), **Madeline Ellegard** (Girls Track), **Colin Delvecchio** (Boys Golf), **Sallie Quinn** (Girls Lacrosse), **Autumn Stelzer** (Girls Soccer), **Ben Chester** (Boys Tennis), **Troy Wagner** (Baseball), **Taylor Hall** (Softball), **Timmy Aussem** (Boys Lacrosse), and **Max Newman** (Rugby).



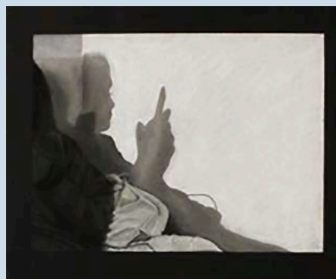
## MAMMA MIA!

The Nicolet theater department's production of *Mamma Mia!* ran from March 7-10. Many students worked extremely hard to put on this amazing and fun production that won 12 Jerry Awards, including the award for outstanding musical.



## ART AWARDS

**Amaya Hauptert** received a national gold medal from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her piece "Cellular Ammunition" for her excellence in originality, technical skill and the emergence of a personal voice. Her work was selected among 340,000 pieces. She will be attending the awards ceremony June 6 and 7 at Carnegie Hall in New York.



The art department had seven winners and participants in the Young People's Art Exhibition. The student works will be on display at the Wisconsin State Fair from August 1-11.

- **Anika Byrne** won 1st place in the Painting category for "Blindsight."
- **Kiyah Cheney** placed 3rd in the drawing category for "Koi."
- **Kaelyn Hart** was recognized as Best in Show in the painting category for "Reincarnation."
- **Aiden Kidd** was recognized as Dynamic Digital Art in the Photography category for "Wanderer."
- **Avery Mitchell** received Judges Favorite in the painting category for "Floating in Earnest."
- **Abby Schmidt** placed 3rd in the drawing category for "Voting Day."
- **Maia Sherry** won first place in the painting category for "Saturated Reflections."



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www.nicolet.us

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## NICOLET SCHOOL BOARD

Elizabeth (Libby) Gutterman, President  
Ellen Redeker, Vice President  
Dr. Leigh Wallace Tabak, Clerk  
Theresa Seem, Treasurer  
Marilyn Franklin, Member

## UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

*Meetings are held in the Library (D110)*

**June 17:** Board Workshop (6:00 p.m.)

**July 15:** Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

**August 26:** Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)

Annual Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

*Visit the district website for additional meeting dates.*

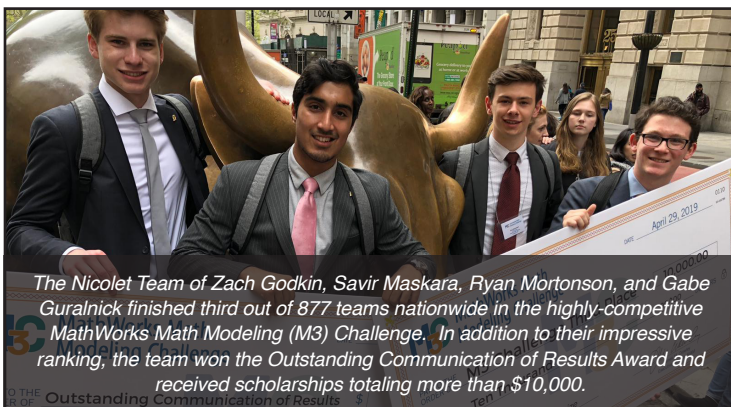
## SMILE, NICOLET!



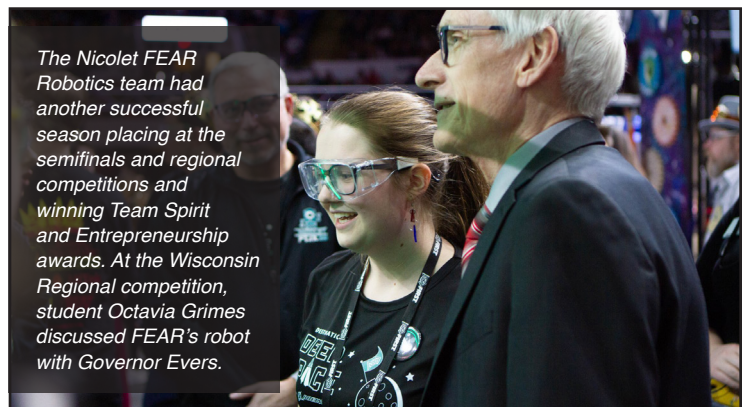
*In April, Nicolet Hebrew students hosted their first group of Israeli exchange students!*



*The Boys Basketball team won Nicolet's first-ever Boys State Basketball Championship title!*



*The Nicolet Team of Zach Godkin, Savir Maskara, Ryan Mortenson, and Gabe Guralnick finished third out of 877 teams nationwide in the highly-competitive MathWorks Math Modeling (M3) Challenge. In addition to their impressive ranking, the team won the Outstanding Communication of Results Award and received scholarships totaling more than \$10,000.*



*The Nicolet FEAR Robotics team had another successful season placing at the semifinals and regional competitions and winning Team Spirit and Entrepreneurship awards. At the Wisconsin Regional competition, student Octavia Grimes discussed FEAR's robot with Governor Evers.*