



News Release

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2026

Contact: Jake Ricker

jake@goffpublic.com

(763) 443-1987

Thirty-three Minnesota and Wisconsin students earn Discovery Scholarships from Flint Hills Resources

*Now in its 35th year, the Flint Hills Discovery Scholarship program
has awarded more than 1,200 scholarships to local students*

Rosemount, Minn. – Flint Hills Resources awarded its annual Discovery Scholarship to 33 college-bound students from 21 Minnesota and Wisconsin high schools at a recent celebration banquet. Each year, Discovery Scholarships recognize the latest group of graduating innovators, problem-solvers and community leaders.

Now in its 35th year, the Discovery Scholarship program helps lift up the next generation of talent by supporting students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, manufacturing and construction. Since 1991, Flint Hills Resources has awarded over 1,200 scholarships to students, totaling more than \$2.5 million.

Discovery Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors in communities with connections to Flint Hills' operations, including the Pine Bend refinery in Dakota County and locations along the company's Minnesota and Wisconsin pipeline systems. Students are selected based on academic achievement, leadership, community involvement and their entrepreneurial spirit.

"Each year, Discovery Scholarships provide us with an opportunity to recognize inspiring students who excel in the classroom and contribute to their communities," said Geoff Glasrud, vice president and manufacturing manager at Flint Hills Resources' Pine Bend refinery. "We look forward to seeing what these students achieve as they pursue careers that will help keep our communities strong, drive innovation and power our region's economy for years to come."

In addition to Discovery Scholarships, Flint Hills Resources invests in education and workforce development through partnerships with organizations across the region, including the Minnesota Zoo, the Minnesota Wild and many others.

Below is a full listing of the 2026 Discovery Scholarship recipients, organized alphabetically by school name and student last name.

Apple Valley High School

- Brianna Munguia
- *Note: A second scholarship recipient at Apple Valley High School requested their name be withheld.*

Auburndale High School

- Olivia Smrz

Clearbrook-Gonvick High School

- Ava Larson

Eagan High School

- Makenna Becker
- Tessa Marton

Eastview High School

- Sai Keerthana Gajjela
- Liam Sultan

Ellsworth High School

- Nathan Rollins

Faribault High School

- Liam Redman

Foley High School

- Alexander Stang

Hastings High School

- Amelia Chandler
- Elli Levine

Little Falls Community High School

- Eli Miller

Marshfield High School

- Neel Gonugunta

Park High School

- Gavin Degel
- Isabel Martinez

Park Rapids High School

- Anika Kietzman

Rosemount High School

- Isabella Dahling
- Natalia Duggan
- Kristopher Perla
- Jacob Skaria

School of Environmental Studies

- Nathaniel Cahn
- Kiernyn Elert

Staples-Motley High School

- Livia Trif

Simley High School

- Douglas Johnson
- Gaverett Peterson

South Saint Paul High School

- Hayden Diaz
- Maximillian Zapf

Two Rivers High School

- Cole Cheesebrough
- Amelie Williams

White Bear Lake Area High School

- Oliver Beck

Woodbury High School

- Joseph Bents

About Flint Hills Resources

The [Flint Hills Resources](#) Pine Bend refinery produces transportation fuels used throughout the Midwest, including most of Minnesota's gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, as well as other products people rely on such as propane and asphalt. Located 17 miles southeast of

Minneapolis, Pine Bend has a refining capacity of 375,000 barrels per day and is among the most efficient oil refineries in the country. Flint Hills Resources directly and indirectly supports more than 4,000 Minnesota jobs and has invested nearly \$1.7 billion in upgrades and improvements to its Minnesota facilities since 2010. With more than 1,000 full-time employees, the Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend refinery is one of the largest employers in Dakota County. More information about the Pine Bend refinery is available at PineBendRefinery.com.

###