

The Rooted and Rising Award

Purpose

The Rooted and Rising Award was created to recognize a graduating Williamston senior who is building a strong foundation for the future—someone who demonstrates character, consistency, and care for others, and who intends to use a business-related education to build something meaningful for themselves and their community.

This award is not based on class rank or perfect grades. It honors students whose roots are deep, whose growth may be quiet, and whose impact is felt through steady effort, integrity, and service.

Eligibility

- Graduating senior from Williamston High School
- Plans to pursue business, finance, economics, entrepreneurship, or a related field
- Demonstrates character, reliability, and community involvement
- Open to all students, regardless of gender identity

Award Details

- Two recipients selected
- Award amount to be determined by donor
- Presented at Senior Awards Night

Application Requirements

Essay (Required)

Maximum 750–900 words, double-spaced, 12-point font. Applicants should respond to all three prompts in one essay:

1. Character & Consistency: Describe a time you showed up for something or someone even when it was not required or rewarded. What did you learn about yourself?
2. Community & Contribution: How have you contributed to your school or community in ways that may not always be visible or celebrated?
3. Rooted and Rising: How do you hope to use a business-related education to build a good life for yourself while also contributing positively to others or your community?

Optional Materials

- One-page activities snapshot (bulleted)

- One brief recommendation from a teacher, coach, employer, or community member (optional)

Selection Process

- Applications are submitted directly (no nomination required)
- The donor will personally review all applications
- Two recipients will be selected based on character, consistency, community involvement, and intention

About the Award

The Rooted and Rising Award was established by a Williamston community member who believes that strong roots—character, effort, and care for others—create growth that benefits not just one individual, but generations to come.