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**30 Iowa High Schools Win \$1,000 for Strutting Financial Know-How**  
*Cash Drawing Helps Increase Iowa's Participation in National Financial Capability Challenge, While National Participation Declines*

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (June 18, 2012) — Thirty Iowa high schools recently received a check for \$1,000 in recognition of their students' accomplishments in the 2012 National Financial Capability Challenge, an online financial literacy exam.

Iowa Student Loan®, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, Iowa Jump\$tart, Junior Achievement of Central Iowa and the Iowa College Access Network, offered the cash awards to Iowa high schools that participated in the Challenge and had at least one student score in the top 20% nationally. The National Financial Capability Challenge is cosponsored by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Education to encourage educators to teach high school students about the basics of personal finance.

“We and our partners felt that the National Financial Capability Challenge is a great program that needed more attention. Our main goal in offering the cash drawing was to increase the number of participating Iowa high schools and students,” said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of Iowa Student Loan. “Looking at the numbers, we believe this effort helped accomplish that goal.”

In March and April of this year, 88 Iowa high schools participated in the Challenge compared to only 57 schools in 2011, an increase of more than 50%. This is notable because the number of participating high schools nationwide decreased by nearly 10% from last year. In addition, a total of 3,489 Iowa students participated in the 2012 financial literacy contest, which was nearly 1,000 more students than last year.

According to the Challenge's website at [www.challenge.treas.gov](http://www.challenge.treas.gov), the increase in participating Iowa high schools was the third-largest in the nation, and the increase of participating students in Iowa (37.3%) was the fifth-largest. Iowa also had large increases in the number of perfect scores (155.6%) and number of students scoring in the top 20% nationally (61.7%).

### Winning Schools

Winners of the cash drawing were randomly selected earlier this month from Iowa high schools that had at least one student score in the top 20% nationally and that had elected to be listed in the public results on the Challenge website. The following winners were chosen from a total of 54 schools meeting those qualifications.

School Name	City	School Name	City
Alburnett High School	Alburnett	Northwood-Kensett Junior/Senior High School	Northwood
Ames High School	Ames	Perry High School	Perry
CAL High School	Latimer	Pleasant Valley High School	Bettendorf
Centerville High School	Centerville	Riceville High School	Riceville
Central Lee High School	Donnellson	River Valley Junior/Senior High School	Correctionville
Colfax-Mingo High School	Colfax	Riverside High School	Oakland
Creston High School	Creston	Rock Valley High School	Rock Valley
Decorah High School	Decorah	Ruthven-Ayrshire Consolidated School	Ruthven
Denver Senior High School	Denver	Spirit Lake High School	Spirit Lake
East High School	Sioux City	Thomas Jefferson	Council Bluffs
HLV Community School	Victor	Treynor Community Schools	Treynor
Independence Junior/Senior High School	Independence	Tri-Center High School	Neola
Lincoln High School	Des Moines	Vinton-Shellsburg High School	Vinton
Linn Mar High School	Marion	West Delaware High School	Manchester
Lynnville-Sully High School	Sully	West Harrison High School	Mondamin

The winning schools were notified of their cash awards and each received \$1,000: \$500 intended to improve or continue financial literacy programs and \$500 intended for school scholarship funds. The partnering educational organizations that sponsored the drawing hope to make it an annual recognition program for participating Iowa schools.

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### **About Iowa Student Loan**

Since 1981, Iowa Student Loan, a private, nonprofit organization, has helped Iowa students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. Iowa Student Loan has helped more than 375,000 students pay for college. The organization, based in West Des Moines, Iowa, also provides an array of borrower benefits, financial literacy tools and community reinvestment programs, including support for free college planning services for students and their families. For more information about Iowa Student Loan, visit [www.studentloan.org](http://www.studentloan.org).