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**30 Iowa High Schools Win \$1,000 in Financial Literacy Challenge**

*Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge Encourages Hundreds of Students to Demonstrate Their Financial Understanding*

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (March 5, 2015) — Students from across the state demonstrated their grasp of financial concepts and many won their school \$1,000 in the process.

Iowa Student Loan®, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Jump\$tart Coalition, Junior Achievement of Central Iowa and the Iowa College Access Network, offered cash awards to Iowa high schools that participated in the 2015 Iowa Financial Know- How Challenge. Thirty high schools were awarded \$1,000 intended to improve the school's financial literacy programs and scholarship funds.

The Challenge incorporated the use of Iowa Student Loan's online financial literacy tutorial Student Loan Game Plan<sup>SM</sup> and the ROCI Reality Check into classroom instruction. With Student Loan Game Plan, high school students learned ways they could plan ahead and borrow less for college by making informed financial decisions. The ROCI Reality Check helped students discover their return on college investment through earnings potential based on major and career choice.

"I think the tools that are provided to the students are a valuable part of our curriculum," said Kurt Brown, a business education teacher at OA-BCIG High School. "It allows the students to see the real costs and some of the real benefits as well as what their options are. Anytime we can get more information to our students it is a positive thing. I appreciate the Student Loan Game Plan and the ROCI Reality Check."

The Challenge also helped schools address financial literacy requirements for the Iowa Core 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills when educators use each tool alone or design their own curriculum. Iowa Student Loan continuously offers classroom guides that provide discussion and assignment topics, as well as a correlation to the Iowa Core.

“Up to this point my students had little to no knowledge about student loans. The Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge is a great eye-opening lesson for our students that relates to the Iowa Core,” said Erin Hoffman, a business and computer teacher at Kingsley-Pierson High School. “The examples provided in the Student Loan Game Plan and the ROCI Reality Check helped my students relate to this real life experience. This is a strong financial literacy program that helps our students prepare for their futures and I look forward to using this educational tool again.”

### Winning Schools

Winners of the cash drawing were randomly selected earlier this month from Iowa high schools that completed the Challenge. The following winners were chosen from the eligible schools.

School Name	City	School Name	City
Ballard High School	Huxley	Marquette High School	Bellevue
Bellevue High School	Bellevue	Melcher-Dallas High School	Melcher-Dallas
Camanche High School	Camanche	Mid-Prairie High School	Wellman
Centerville High School	Centerville	North High School	Sioux City
Central High School	DeWitt	OA-BCIG High School	Ida Grove
Decorah High School	Decorah	Perry High School	Perry
Eagle Grove High School	Eagle Grove	Pleasant Valley High School	Bettendorf
Essex High School	Essex	Postville High School	Postville
Greene County High School	Jefferson	Prairie High School	Cedar Rapids
H-L-V Jr-Sr High School	Victor	Riceville High School	Riceville
Humboldt High School	Humboldt	Southeast Polk High School	Pleasant Hill
Indianola High School	Indianola	St Ansgar High School	St. Ansgar
Interstate 35 High School	Truro	Thomas Jefferson High School	Council Bluffs
Kingsley-Pierson Community High School	Kingsley	Treynor High School	Treynor
Maple Valley-Anthon-Oto High School	Mapleton	West Liberty High School	West Liberty

The winning schools will each receive \$1,000: \$500 intended to improve or continue financial literacy programs and \$500 intended for school scholarship funds.

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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.IowaStudentLoan.org](http://www.IowaStudentLoan.org).