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Thirty Iowa Seniors Receive College Scholarship from Nonprofit
Iowa High School Seniors Each Earn \$2,000 for Demonstrating Financial Know-How

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (*April 26, 2016*) — High school seniors from across the state earned \$2,000 for college while learning important financial literacy skills through the 2015–2016 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship sponsored by Iowa Student Loan®.

More than 4,300 Iowa high school seniors registered for the scholarship between November 2015 and March 2016. Of those, more than 2,200 completed two online financial literacy tutorials and a related assessment to qualify for one of 30 scholarships. The 30 winners were those who scored highest on the assessment and, because of a tie for top scores, received the highest scores on an independently judged essay.

“High student loan debt levels are a legitimate concern,” said Christine Hensley, chair of the Iowa Student Loan board of directors. “The scholarship is a great way to expose high school students to the concepts of minimizing debt and making responsible borrowing decisions right at the time they are making college decisions. We hear from parents every year that the process of experiencing our online tools as part of the scholarship qualification opens up enlightening conversations with their students.”

The tools, along with tips that registered students received by email through the scholarship period, are designed to help students avoid the pitfalls of heavy student loan debt, a continuing concern for college graduates in Iowa and nationwide, Hensley said. Student Loan Game PlanSM and the ROCI Reality Check were developed by Iowa Student Loan to help students understand the consequences of college borrowing and discover how to maximize their return on college investment, or ROCI.

“The [scholarship] was extremely insightful to just how many expenses there really are in college,” said Ian Kubbe, an Ottumwa High School senior and one of the 2015-2016 recipients of the scholarship. “I strongly recommend this scholarship opportunity to any high school senior, not only for the financial benefit it provides, but also the helpful information about loans, college expenses and how to budget your money correctly.”

“This year we expanded the scholarship program to award more students with more college funds and to recognize the role high schools play in educating their students about important college financing concepts,” said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of Iowa Student Loan. “This initiative is a tangible aspect of our mission to help Iowa students and families successfully pay for postsecondary education.”

Each recipient’s high school also received a \$500 award to improve or implement financial literacy and scholarship programs.

Program Future

Although details are not yet finalized, Iowa Student Loan anticipates offering the scholarship next academic year. More about the Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship is available at www.iowaStudentLoan.org.

Scholarship Recipients

The following students each earned a \$2,000 scholarship. Iowa Student Loan will send scholarship funds directly to recipients' colleges.

Student Name	Student School	Student Name	Student School
Veronica Augustine	West High School (Davenport)	Brandi Miller	Waverly-Shell Rock High School
Aaron Bertini	Glenwood High School	Kaylee Puttmann	MOC-Floyd Valley High School
Jared Davis	Hempstead High School	Lindsey Reicks	Solon High School
Crystal Epling	Le Mars High School	Alexandra Reifert	Wilton High School
Jason Fisher	Nashua-Plainfield High School	Bradley Ritter	Baxter High School
Rebecca Fuhrmeister	Pleasant Valley High School	Rebecca Roberson	Akron Westfield High School
Leah Gibbs	Easton Valley High School	Lauren Ronnfeldt	Regina High School
Nicole Giesemann	Bellevue High School	Amber Snyder	Wilton High School
Hailey Gross	West Central Valley High School	Alexandria Sturtz	North Polk High School
Jenny Ha	Linn-Mar High School	Jordan Thomas	Southeast Polk High School
Alexander Hall	East Mills High School	Sarah Todd	Columbus Community High School
Ian Kubbe	Ottumwa High School	Jack Turner	Dowling Catholic High School
McKenna Lloyd	Xavier High School	Cierstynn Welcher	Van Buren High School
Lindsay Mahaney	Bishop Heelan Catholic High School	Carter Wolf	Southeast Polk High School
Nathan Maughan	Albia High School	Sarah Zelle	Linn-Mar High School

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About Iowa Student Loan

Established in 1979 as a private, nonprofit organization, Iowa Student Loan helps Iowa students and families obtain the resources necessary to succeed in postsecondary education. Iowa Student Loan has helped more than 392,500 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.