



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Megan Garrett
Corporate Communications and
Media Relations Administrator
(515) 273-7145
mgarrett@studentloan.org

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 10, 2016*) — High school seniors from across the state earned \$2,000 for college while learning important financial literacy skills through the 2016–2017 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship sponsored by Iowa Student Loan®.

More than 3,500 Iowa high school seniors registered for the scholarship between November 2016 and February 2017. Of those, nearly 2,000 completed two online financial literacy tutorials and a related assessment to qualify for one of 30 scholarships. The 30 recipients 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.

“Students face high college costs and, for many, the related student debt,” said Christine Hensley, chair of the Iowa Student Loan board of directors. “We know the decisions students make about spending, college choice and college major may have a significant impact on the amount of debt students need to take on. This scholarship is one way we encourage high school students to experience our online tools to learn about the concepts of minimizing debt and making responsible borrowing decisions. Each year that we offer this program, students, parents and educators comment on the valuable lessons gained through the scholarship qualification process.”

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, 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 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship has provided me with helpful tips and advice to save money, budget my expenses, and overall become a more financially responsible student while in college,” said Jordan Turner, a 2017 graduate of Linn-Mar High School and a 2016–2017 scholarship recipient.

Charlotte Lenkaitis, another recipient and a 2017 graduate of Ames High School, agreed. “This scholarship and the tips that I learned throughout the process will help me to minimize my need to borrow money for college. By making smarter decisions now, I am giving myself greater opportunities for success in the future,” she said.

Each recipient’s high school will also receive 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 High School	Student Name	Student High School
Katiana Anderson	Johnston	Gabriel Mintzer	Valley (West Des Moines)
Noah Berthusen	Waukee	Kaytlyn Mulford	Iowa Falls-Alden
Amber Brincks	South Winneshiek	Sophie Nielsen	Dowling Catholic
Emily Bruinsma	Pleasant Valley	Matthew Parcher	Northwood-Kensett
Sophie Catus	Johnston	Isaiah Passmore	Crestwood
Janielle Cobler	Ottumwa	Jacob Peake	Southeast Polk
Cole Drenth	Alta-Aurelia	Hailey Pullman	West Sioux
Ashley Erne	Harris-Lake Park	Ethan Schmitz	Columbus Catholic
Dakota Fouts	Waukee	Brandon Svoboda	Okoboji
Tyler Groathouse	Waukee	Cameron Trentz	Pleasant Valley
Collin Hillinger	Lawton-Bronson	Jordan Turner	Linn-Mar
Adriana Jorgenson	Linn-Mar	Sreeja Vepa	Urbandale
Alexander Kock	AR-WE-VA	Ryan Wagner	Fort Dodge
Morgan Koenen	Linn-Mar	Nichole Winter	Maquoketa Valley
Charlotte Lenkaitis	Ames	Damon Wolter	Keokuk

###

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.