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Twenty Iowa Seniors Receive College Scholarship from Nonprofit
Iowa High School Seniors Each Earn \$1,500 for Demonstrating Financial Know-How

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (April 23, 2015) — High school seniors from across the state earned \$1,500 for college while learning important financial literacy skills through the 2015 Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship sponsored by Iowa Student Loan®.

More than 2,000 Iowa high school seniors registered for the scholarship in January and February. Of those, nearly 1,200 completed two online financial literacy tutorials and a related assessment to qualify for one of 20 scholarships. The 20 winners were those who scored highest on the assessment or, in the case of a tie for top scores, received the highest scores on an independently judged essay.

“We have these great tools available for free that help students understand how borrowing money, and a host of other financial decisions, make an impact on their success after college,” said Christine Hensley, chair of the Iowa Student Loan board of directors. “The scholarship program is one way we encourage high school students to internalize these concepts before they ever need to take out a loan.”

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 tools were useful to many of the students who participated in the scholarship process. “Through this opportunity, I have learned valuable information about how my college borrowing choices will affect my chances in the future, and I plan to use this information to keep my student loan debt as low as possible,” said Meghan McLaughlin, a scholarship recipient who plans to major in engineering.

“This is the second year for this scholarship program, and we have had great participation,” said Steve McCullough, president and CEO of Iowa Student Loan. “We are proud to recognize these students who have demonstrated their knowledge of how to minimize college debt.”

Scholarship Recipients

The following students each earned a \$1,500 scholarship. Iowa Student Loan will send scholarship funds directly to recipients’ colleges.

Student Name	Student School	Student Name	Student School
Aaron Buelow	Valley High School, West Des Moines	Timothy Morris	Benton Community High School
Caitlin Campbell	Boone High School	Michaela Ostendorf	Madrid High School
Valerie Charter	Ballard High School	Spencer Peterson	Boone High School
Shuling Cheng	Johnston High School	Anna Poulton	Lamoni High School
Brock Fischer	Linn-Mar High School	Connor Smith	North Iowa High School
Hannah Grizzle	Guthrie Center High School	Mary Stoneking	Northwood-Kensett High School
John Krone	Johnston High School	Travis Thiltgen	Hempstead High School
Taryn Kroymann	Prairie High School, Cedar Rapids	Courtney Tifft	Spirit Lake High School
Alex Larson	Alta-Aurelia High School	Macy Visser	Urbandale High School
Meghan McLaughlin	Easton Valley High School	Sophia Vogeler	Urbandale High School

Program Future

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

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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.