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**High School Seniors Receive College Scholarship from Nonprofit**  
*Recipients from Surrounding States to Attend Iowa Colleges*

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA (*June 22, 2017*) — Five high school seniors from Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri each earned \$1,000 for college while learning important financial literacy skills through the 2017 Come 2 Iowa Senior Scholarship sponsored by Iowa Student Loan®.

Nearly 650 high school seniors from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin registered for the scholarship this spring. To be eligible for one of the five \$1,000 college scholarships, participants completed two online financial literacy tutorials and a related assessment and indicated their intention to attend an Iowa college or university in fall 2017. The five 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 from surrounding states who wish to come to college in Iowa often face higher tuition and costs than in-state students,” said Christine Hensley, chair of the Iowa Student Loan board of directors. “This consideration, as well as the decisions students make about spending and college major, may have a significant impact on the amount of debt students need to take on. The scholarship qualification process encourages students to experience our online tools to learn about the concepts of minimizing debt and making responsible borrowing decisions.”

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 Plan<sup>SM</sup> 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 Come 2 Iowa Senior Scholarship “will help me avoid taking out student loans for the many years of college I have ahead of me,” said Derek Jones, a 2017 graduate of Argenta-Oreana High School in Illinois who plans to attend Grinnell College this fall and eventually earn a doctorate degree before entering a career as a professor at a research university. If he does need to take on debt, he says the lessons he learned during the scholarship process “will enable me to be a responsible borrower and stay within my recommended borrowing limit.”

Abby Klahs, a 2017 graduate of St. Pius X High School in Festus, Missouri, who will attend Iowa State University this fall as a biology major en route to earning a doctorate, said, “I am grateful for the information and continuing resources that Iowa Student Loan has provided my family and I.”

The Come 2 Iowa Senior Scholarship is one of several scholarships and programs sponsored by Iowa Student Loan to raise awareness of its free online smart borrowing tools, which educate students and families on important college planning and financing concepts.

More about the Come 2 Iowa Senior Scholarship is available at [www.iowaStudentLoan.org](http://www.iowaStudentLoan.org).

## Scholarship Recipients

The following students each earned a \$1,000 scholarship. Iowa Student Loan will send scholarship funds directly to recipients' colleges.

Student Name	Hometown	Intended College
Benjamin Almquist	Roseville, Minnesota	Iowa State University
Matthew Carson	Mackinaw, Illinois	Iowa State University
Derek Jones	Decatur, Illinois	Grinnell College
Abby Klahs	Bloomsdale, Missouri	Iowa State University
Erin Williams	Burnsville, Minnesota	Drake University

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