



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hoover Uncommon Students to earn \$30,000 in Scholarship Awards

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Oct. 5, 2016 – Fourteen high school seniors from across Iowa have each earned a \$1,000 cash award for their work on a special project this summer. On Saturday, Oct. 15, they'll present their work before a panel of judges and three will earn an additional \$5,000 scholarship to the college or university of their choice. The presentations are open to the public and begin at 9 a.m. in the Figge Auditorium at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. They will run every 20 minutes until complete, with a break for lunch. All awards will be presented at the conclusion of the presentations.

Students apply for the program in their junior year by submitting a proposal for a project showing entrepreneurship, community or humanitarian service, conservation, or special use of technology. The 14 finalists then spend the summer working their projects and recording results. They are scored entirely on the merits of their work. Grades, test scores and financial need are not evaluated.

This year's 14 finalists and their projects include:

Justin Bernard	Red Oak	Polli 'Nation' – Helping the nation help pollinators
Gabe Candee	Des Moines	Lean On Me: A Service Project
Jordan Dags-Olson	Eldora	Investing in Iowa's Future by Learning to Treasure its Past
Tiffany Foley	Newell	My Garden
Emma Hoefer	Peosta	It's all about the Words
Kyle Hoffman	Muscatine	Catapults for Kids and Classrooms
Molly McCunn	Long Grove	Introduction to Engineering Workshop
Erin Oppel	Muscatine	Middle School Matters
Manasa Pagadala	Rock Island	Switching to Switchgrass
Hannah Picard	Knoxville	Adaptive Sports Teams for Children
Emelia Porubcin	Coal Valley	Pounce Magazine: Technology and the Arts in the 21 st Century
Mickey Sloat	Davenport	Don't Upstage
Lucia Wagner	Iowa City	Free Pantry
Ardis White	Waterloo	A Microbusiness for Syrian Refugees Living in Jordan

<<more>>





The panel will include:

Cary Covington

Political Science Professor
University of Iowa
Iowa City

Richard DeGowin, MD

Emeritus Professor of Internal Medicine
Iowa City

Bruce Hauptert

Counsel
Leff Law Firm
Iowa City

Larry Minard

Retired Teacher
Davenport

Jeralyn G. Westercamp

2008 Uncommon Student
Cedar Rapids

Deb Schreiber

ACT, Talent Resource Partner
Iowa City

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Attached: Complete Project List Descriptions



2016 Uncommon Students Project List

The Herbert Hoover Uncommon Students Class of 2016:



Justin Bernard

Red Oak, IA

Home Schooled

Polli 'Nation'- Helping the nation help pollinators

This first phase includes plans to build and showcase an observation hive for use in presentations to school and community groups all over Southwest Iowa to showcase the functions of the bees within their hive. The second phase will include purchasing beekeeping suits and hand tools for up to 5 users at one time for small groups to become engaged with the bees, extinguishing the fear that honeybees are like other stinging pest.



Gabe Candee

Des Moines, IA

Carlisle High School

Lean On Me: Service Project

To help local citizens make their homes warmer, safer and drier by matching willing and able volunteers with those who need assistance



Jordan Daggs-Olson

Eldora, IA

South Hardin High School

Investing in Iowa's Future by Learning to Treasure Its Past

This project consists of creating an educational program for third graders at my local elementary school that talks about farm life in the 1920s vs. farm life today. The goals of this program are to utilize our own local educational gem that is the Hardin County Farm Museum and grounds and to educate the youth of our community on its rich agricultural history.





Tiffany Foley

Newell, IA
Newell-Fonda High School
My Garden

My project plan is to make healthy food more accessible to families that either do not have the ability to grow their own, or simply cannot afford to do so by growing a garden full of fruits and vegetables. My end goal for this project is to reach 25 different families with my healthy fruit and vegetable baskets.



Emma Hofer

Peosta, IA
West Dubuque High School
It's All About the Words

This is a project to address the growing issue of the increasing word gap between children living in poverty and those who are not. I will be creating a packet of information explaining the ongoing importance of talking to babies right after birth along with reading to them until they are able to read independently. It is my goal to give the mother 2-3 children's books to read to their child once they leave Mary's Inn, a home for expectant mothers with nowhere to go.



Kyle Hoffman

Muscatine, IA
Muscatine High School
Catapults for Kids and Classrooms

My goal is to give the same advantage I had, of learning basic Physics principles early on, to students all across our school district. However, I'm going to arrange it to be even MORE hands-on than what I experienced!



Molly McCunn

Long Grove, IA
North Scott High School
Introduction to Engineering Workshop

I am proposing an engineering workshop to introduce elementary school-aged children to the wonders of engineering. Through hands-on activities that are relatable to younger children, we will explore a variety of basic engineering principles.





Erin Opiel

Muscatine, IA
Muscatine High School
Middle School Matters

Despite the actions taken by Muscatine High School to keep students in school, the dropout rate continues to be an issue of concern. I hope to work with at-risk middle school students and provide them with mentors, places to work on their academics after school and reward them for their effort, success in the classroom and for attending school on a regular basis.



Manasa Pagadala

Rock Island, IL
Rivermont Collegiate
Switching to Switchgrass

Switching to Switchgrass provides inexpensive resources to hundreds of energy-deprived families in third-world nations. By assembling hundreds of kits, (containing the two necessary, inexpensive microbes to convert any nearby energy source - grass, waste paper, and virtually anything that contains cellulose - into readily available ethanol), I can help those in foreign countries who suffer from poverty, energy deprivation, and a lack of infrastructure. The project also educates students and local companies about the importance of converting to a cleaner, more efficient energy source.

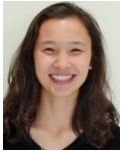


Hannah Picard

Knoxville, IA
Home Schooled
Adaptive Sports Teams for Children

I want to create track and swim teams aimed specifically towards children with physical disabilities, and to provide coaching with the children's needs in mind, as well as opportunities for them to compete.





Emelia Porubcin

Coal Valley, IA

Rivermont Collegiate

Pounce Magazine: Technology and the Arts in the 21st Century

Pounce will be a low-cost, student volunteer-run arts and literature magazine published entirely online. My project will facilitate technological literacy and celebrate the Quad Cities arts community to transcend the one-dimensional format of a print magazine.



Mickey Sloat

Davenport, IA

Davenport Central High School

Don't Upstage

The goal of my project, "Don't Upstage Yourself," is to make hands-on theatre available to youth all across the globe, enhancing young students' critical verbal communication skills at an early age, and encouraging creativity and teamwork. In accordance with the trend to "think globally, act locally," my initial goal is to reach all elementary school students in Davenport, Iowa, followed by a larger, statewide, initiative. Ultimately, I would love to add sessions especially for special needs students to enhance their social confidence and public speaking skills.



Lucia Wagner

Iowa City, IA

Iowa City High School

Free Pantry

I will lead a project to create a 'discreet' free pantry for high school students on the free and reduced lunch program at Iowa City High School in Iowa City.



Ardis White

Waterloo, IA

Valley Lutheran High School

A Microbusiness for Syrian Refugees Living in Jordan

My goal is to enable Syrian refugee women living in Jordan to start a microbusiness producing greeting cards and hand-dyed fabric that will help them become more self-sufficient.

