



NEWS RELEASE

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Three Students take Top Honors, \$6,000 Each in Uncommon Scholarship Program

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – Oct. 17, 2016 – Saturday, Oct. 15 was Presentation Day at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum for 14 high school seniors in the Uncommon Student Awards program, sponsored by the Hoover Presidential Foundation.

The students applied for the program as high school juniors back in March. The Foundation selected 14 finalists from across Iowa to participate in the program. Each student developed a philanthropic program of their own design and worked on it over the summer. They returned last Saturday to present their results.

Each student was awarded \$1,000 for their efforts. Three were selected by a panel of judges for an additional \$5,000 scholarship award.

Kyle Hoffman of Muscatine was one of the three. His project was titled, ‘Catapults for Kids and Classrooms.’ “I raised \$11,000 to fund my development of STEM curriculum and kits for Muscatine’s 12 elementary/middle-schools,” Hoffman said. The kits included high-quality ‘hands-on’ reusable activities to promote deep understanding of key concepts during traditional classes and after school programs. “I’ve already trained teachers on using the kits and arranged for ongoing ‘STEM Fridays’ with after school programs,” he added.

Jordyn Daggs-Olson of South Hardin High School in Eldora earned a \$5,000 scholarship for her project, ‘Investing in Iowa’s Future by Learning to Treasure Its Past.’ “I created an experiential curriculum designed for the third graders at Eldora-New Providence Elementary,” Daggs-Olson said. The program focuses on life in rural Iowa during the 1920s and 30s, with specific focus on education, agriculture and daily life. The students have combined classroom lessons with a day of applied experiences at the Hardin County Farm Museum.

The third scholarship award went to Mickey Sloat of Davenport Central High School in Davenport. Her program, ‘Don’t Upstage Yourself,’ involved introducing students to theatre at a young age to instill higher confidence, self-expression and success later in life. “Don’t Upstage Yourself is an after-school enrichment program that uses theatre games, improv and putting on a play to encourage kids to develop a love of the arts, public speaking, and, most importantly, themselves,” said Sloat.

Lucia Wagner, Iowa City High School, was recognized as the Mariah Becker award winner for her project, ‘Free Pantry.’ This award is in memory of Mariah Becker, a member of the Hoover Uncommon Student Award Class of 2000. She was a student at the University of Iowa in 2002 when she lost a long and courageous battle with cancer. Miss Wagner received a plaque and her name was added to a permanent display at the Library-



Museum. To ensure the Free Pantry carries on, \$250 will be donated to help fund her project when she turns it over other students at City High after she steps down to attend college.

The Uncommon Student Awards program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish a project of their own choosing and design. Grades, test scores, essays and financial need are not evaluated. Application is open to all Iowa high school juniors and are due by March 15.

About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation is a private nonprofit organization for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, Iowa. The Foundation fosters the collection, interpretation and preservation of historical resources relating to the life, ideas, values and times of Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States.

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Captions: 5k winners: Leslie Hoover-Lauble (2nd from left) presents \$5,000 awards to (L to R) Kyle Hoffmann, Jordyn Daggs-Olson and Mickey Sloat.

Mariah Becker Winner: Lucia Wagner was chosen as the 2016 Mariah Becker Award winner.


