



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Application Deadline Nears for Uncommon Students

WEST BRANCH, IOWA – March 4, 2022 – The March 15 deadline is just days away for Iowa high school juniors to apply for one of 15 Uncommon Student Award spots and up to \$11,500 in scholarship aid. The program is designed to attract students who are motivated and community minded. The award, which honors Herbert Hoover, an Iowa native and the 31st President of the United States, identifies approximately 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish community-oriented projects of their own design. The projects the students propose should demonstrate the values that Herbert Hoover exemplified in his life of public service.

Grades, test scores, essays and financial need are not evaluated. Each of the 15 finalists will receive a \$1,500 cash award at the completion of the program. Four of those will earn an additional \$10,000 scholarship each, for a total of \$11,500! To learn more and apply for the program, visit UncommonStudent.org.

“It’s up to the students to develop a project they are passionate about, and we’ve seen a wide variety of projects during the programs’ 24 year run,” said Tiffany Frederick, academic programs manager at the Hoover Presidential Foundation. “Some past programs have included building a playground, repairing a high school’s greenhouse, collecting socks for homeless people, or building community gardens.”

“Many of the projects are geared toward community service, and some are entrepreneurial and reach beyond Iowa’s borders,” Frederick explained. “One Uncommon Student started building websites for non-profits and has turned that effort into a profitable business with over 30 employees. Another wrote and illustrated a children’s book that was used by the American Red Cross to comfort children who experienced a natural disaster. One student started a non-profit organization to serve children with special needs and built chapters nationwide. The project ideas are only limited by the imagination and drive of the applicants.”

To apply, students submit an outline of a project they would like to start in their community. It should not be something already in progress. After the March 15 deadline, a committee will review the project ideas and select 15 Uncommon Students. In June, those students will visit the Hoover campus in West Branch to learn more about Herbert Hoover and receive training and mentoring to aid them in their efforts. They then spend the summer working their projects.

In October, as high school seniors, they return to the Hoover campus to present the results of their work. Each will earn a \$1,500 cash award. A panel of judges will select four projects from the group and those students will each earn a \$10,000 scholarship to the school of their choice.



“This program builds leaders,” Frederick said. Being a Hoover Uncommon Student has opened doors for many of our alumni. These are students who continue to serve throughout their lifetime.”

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Paragraph 2 – more detail, why is this important

Paragraph 3 – quote from someone

Paragraph 4 – quote from someone else if needed

Paragraph 5+ – summary, benefits, problem solved, possibly include follow up quote from first quoted

About the Foundation

The Hoover Presidential Foundation promotes and supports the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, National Historic Site, and other programs that enhance the understanding of Herbert Hoover as president and humanitarian.

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