



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Hoover Presidential Foundation Welcomed Uncommon Student Award Participants to West Branch

**WEST BRANCH, IOWA – November 13, 2024** – The Hoover Presidential Foundation welcomed 15 Iowa high school seniors to the Hoover Campus in West Branch, Iowa on Saturday, November 9 as participants of the 2024 Uncommon Student Award program for the Stanley and Helen Howe Presentation Day. The students presented their community-minded projects of their own creation to judges and an audience at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum. Each participant received \$1,500 toward their secondary education with additional awards given to select students based on the merits of their projects. Students were not evaluated on the basis of grades, test scores, essays, or financial need.

Four students received \$10,000 awards to be applied to their secondary education. Cory Carter (Kimber Lockhart Innovation Award) of Davenport, Iowa, Katlin Truelsen (Pete and Meredith Hoover Award) of Dewitt, Iowa, Lauren Schroeder of Dixon, Iowa, and Gabrielle Biedermann of Marion, Iowa were this year's recipients.

This year's class is comprised of these Iowa high school seniors.

Gabrielle Biedermann	Linn-Mar High School	Marion
<i>The Reaction Project: Putting the Action into Reactions by Spreading Awareness of Food Allergies and Related Mental Health</i>		

Cory Carter	Davenport West	Davenport
<i>Iowa Kid, Iowa Dirt, Iowa PRODUCE...IOWA Students</i>		

Edmund Hamann	Des Moines East	Des Moines
<i>ISCD (Iowa Swim Clinic for the Deaf)</i>		

Graham Johnson	Valley High School	West Des Moines
<i>Global Gardeners</i>		

Hudson Kimm	Prairie High School	Swisher
<i>Empowering Youth Athletes: The Mental Side of Sports</i>		

Alannah McKibben	Iowa Valley High School	Marengo
<i>Care Bag Project</i>		

Raygan Meehan <i>Lunch Tray 5k</i>	Hempstead High School	Dubuque
Zack Morris <i>Giving Bees a Home</i>	BCLUW High School	Union
Ananya Oli <i>Today's Voters, Tomorrow's Future</i>	Linn-Mar High School	Marion
Journee Petersen <i>Warrior Wellness Corner</i>	Calamus-Wheatland High School	Calamus
Isaiah Picard <i>Para Swimming Clinic</i>	Homeschool	Knoxville
Shubham Sah <i>STEM Empowerment Initiative Nepal</i>	Waukee High School	Waukee
Lauren Schroeder <i>Garden Donations for Non-Profits</i>	Calamus-Wheatland High School	Dixon
Katlin Truelsen <i>Ladies Livestock Mentor Program</i>	Central DeWitt High School	DeWitt
Luke Wittrock <i>Central Iowa Youth Business Incubator (CIYBI)</i>	Valley High School	Urbandale

This year's Mariah Becker Volunteer Leadership Award went to Raygan Meehan for her project Lunch Tray 5k. This is a \$500 award to be applied to the ongoing work of the student's project. Since 2004, the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Alumni Association has upheld this honor in memory of the 2000 Uncommon Student Award participant of the same name.

Katlin Truelsen's \$1,500 award is an endowed award named for Corinne and Stanley Barber.

Students are selected each year based on their stated project goal and detailed plans to reach that goal. Finalists spend a required expense-paid weekend in West Branch (just east of Iowa City) during the summer between their junior and senior years. During the weekend, they receive mentoring and assistance developing their projects to aid in their success.

Time is also spent behind the scenes at the Hoover Presidential Library and Museum to help students become more familiar with President Hoover's ideals regarding humanitarianism and public service. In November of their senior year, finalists make presentations about their projects at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. At that time, each student receives their award money based on the results.

Herbert Hoover, Iowa native and the nation's 31st President, is the inspiration for the award. He noted, "We believe in equal opportunity for all, but we know that this includes the opportunity to rise to leadership . . . to be uncommon." The award, funded entirely by private donations, is sponsored by the Hoover Presidential Foundation, a nonprofit support group for the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch. Information and applications may be found at [www.UncommonStudent.org](http://www.UncommonStudent.org).



**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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