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13 Indiana students earn money for college in statewide contest

Learn More Indiana's College GO! Week contest provides unique opportunity for students

Hoosier students—from kindergarten through high school—are being rewarded for planning to complete education beyond high school. Learn More Indiana, an outreach initiative led by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, is awarding 13 students—one in each grade from kindergarten through high school seniors—with \$529 in an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Savings Plan. The students participated in a statewide "College GO! Week" contest this fall which asked them to describe how they're planning for the future.

"We are pleased that thousands of students across Indiana took part in our College GO! Week contest this year," said Commissioner for Higher Education Teresa Lubbers. "Our student winners are taking purposeful steps to achieve their college aspirations, and we are happy to recognize them as a positive example for all Indiana students."

The College GO! Week contest required students at each grade level to complete an age-appropriate college planning activity. Younger students described necessary tools for their dream careers, while high school students researched college majors and wrote essays on the courses needed to succeed in chosen careers. The 529 plans can be used for tuition, books and other college-related expenses.

Winning students include:

- Kindergarten: Jasper Bouseman from St. John the Baptist Catholic School (Whiting)
- First Grade: Brock Rayhill from Loogootee Elementary West (Loogootee Community School Corporation)
- Second Grade: Lauren Fiester from John H. Castle Elementary (Warrick County School Corporation)
- Third Grade: Meghan Spinazze from Sycamore Elementary (Kokomo School Corporation)
- Fourth Grade: Kaylee Prewitt from Clarks Creek Elementary (Plainfield Community School Corporation)
- Fifth Grade: Zachary Simms from North Harrison Elementary (North Harrison Community Schools)
- Sixth Grade: Mallory Motz from South Terrace Elementary (North Posey County Schools)
- Seventh Grade: Jasmine Martin from Frankie McCullough Girls Academy (Gary Community School Corporation)
- Eighth Grade: Diego Rincon from Central Middle School (Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation)
- Ninth Grade: Madyson Stricker from Columbia City High School (White County Consolidated Schools)
- **Tenth Grade:** Kayleigh Shearer from Southwood Jr-Sr High School (Metropolitan School District of Wabash County)
- Eleventh Grade: Amanda Greenwood from Highland High School (School Town of Highland)
- Twelfth Grade: Kathryn Hammel from Boonville High School (Warrick County School Corporation)

Upcoming Events

Learn More Indiana sponsors college success campaigns and related activities throughout the year, including the upcoming Cash for College campaign. Launching statewide in January and continuing through Indiana's annual March 10 financial aid filing deadline, Cash for College features a variety of free resources and special events designed to help students save for college, navigate the financial aid process and more. Learn more at <u>CashForCollegeIndiana.org</u>.

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About Learn More Indiana

Led by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Learn More Indiana is a partnership of state and local organizations working to help students of all ages succeed in school, complete college and connect to careers. In print, in person, online and on the phone, Learn More Indiana helps Hoosiers plan, prepare and pay for education and training beyond high school. Learn more at LearnMoreIndiana.org.