



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

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Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt awards financial literacy scholarships

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced the overall winners of the financial literacy essay contest sponsored by the Securities Division of the Kansas Department of Insurance.

Earlier this year, the Department granted \$10,000 each to three organizations for a financial literacy essay contest. Jobs for America’s Graduates Kansas, Junior Achievement of Kansas, and the Kansas Council for Economic Education each entered a selection of essays from Kansas students who participated in their financial literacy programs offered in over 200 high schools across the state. The students with the top three essays from each organization were awarded a share of \$10,000 in scholarships. The first-place essay from each organization then advanced to compete for an overall contest winner, and a share of an additional \$10,000.

The contest finalists and their awards are:

- 1st Place, \$5,000 – Anusha Chaturvedi, Olathe North High School (KCEE)
- 2nd Place, \$3,000 – Joel Umana Jimenez, Newton High School (JAG-K)
- 3rd Place, \$2,000 – Cora Genovese, Washburn Rural High School (Junior Achievement)

“This year’s winners showed strong understanding of investment fraud red flags and what steps to take to stop scammers,” said Schmidt. “Congratulations to all the winners this year, and I encourage them to use what they have learned to help others.”

The winning students receive their scholarships in addition to the \$5,000 scholarship they won in the first round of the contest. The students receive the award money in the form of a 529 savings account to use for the advancement of their education. Previously announced winners from each participating organization can be found online at insurance.kansas.gov/news. For more information about the Kansas Insurance Department or to learn more about making smart investment decisions, visit insurance.kansas.gov and SmartInvestKS.com.

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*The Kansas Department of Insurance was established in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to **regulate** companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, **educate** consumers about all things insurance and securities, and **advocate** for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.*