



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

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Contact: Kyle Strathman
Kyle.Strathman@ks.gov

Junior Achievement students receive financial literacy scholarships from the Kansas Department of Insurance

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced three participants in Junior Achievement of Kansas (JA) programs as winners of a financial literacy essay scholarship contest sponsored by the Securities Division of the Kansas Department of Insurance.

The Department granted \$10,000 to JA designated for a financial literacy essay contest in which the top three JA student essays split a share of the grant in scholarship funds.

The scholarship winners are:

1st Place, \$5,000 – Maggie Lesmeister, Seaman High School

2nd Place, \$3,000 – Dylan Dodge, Washburn Rural High School

3rd Place, \$2,000 – Eileen Zhao, Lawrence High School

“This year’s winners demonstrated a strong connection between their personal financial goals and investing,” said Commissioner Schmidt. “The essays show that JA students are obtaining practical money skills that will serve them well in adulthood.”

“Junior Achievement has always valued the amazing students that we have the privilege to serve with our educational programs, which includes financial literacy,” said Bill Blasing, President of Junior Achievement of Kansas. “We are so proud of these students to have this opportunity as part of their learning experience and thrilled for them as scholarship winners.”

The first-place essay will join two other winners from the Kansas Council for Economic Education and Jobs for America’s Graduates-Kansas to compete for the overall winner of the essay contest and an additional scholarship of \$5,000.

To learn more about Junior Achievement of Kansas, visit kansas.ja.org, ‘Junior Achievement of Kansas’ on Facebook, and on Twitter at @kansasja. For more information about the Kansas Department of Insurance or to learn more about making smart investment decisions, visit insurance.kansas.gov and SmartInvestKS.com.

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Junior Achievement of Kansas (JA) is a member of the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA's programs—in the core content areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy—ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century.