



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

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Kansas Department of Insurance awards scholarships to finalists of financial literacy essay contest

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced the overall winner 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, \$5000 – Morgan Allen, (Kansas Council for Economic Education), Centralia High School

2nd Place, \$3000 – Maggie Lesmeister, (Junior Achievement of Kansas), Seaman High School

3rd Place, \$2,000 – Steven Nguyen, (Jobs for America's Graduates Kansas), Wichita Southeast High School

"This year's winners demonstrated the ability to make an investment plan that builds upon their personal goals while evaluating risk and the threat of fraud," said Schmidt. "Congratulations to all the winners this year, and I encourage them to apply their financial knowledge as they further their education."

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.*