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## **Nebraska School Activities Association, U.S. Bank Award Believers & Achievers Scholarships**

- **Believers & Achievers Banquet Held at Nebraska Club**

Believers & Achievers, the state-wide program designed by U.S. Bank and the Nebraska School Activities Association to give recognition to Nebraska's future leaders, held its 19th annual scholarship banquet on June 7th at the Nebraska Club, atop the U.S. Bank Building, in Lincoln. The festivities highlighted the process that began last October when the first Believers & Achievers were announced.

- **Eight Selected from 48 Finalists**

From the 48 finalists named Believers & Achievers, eight received \$500 scholarships from U.S. Bank to the college or university of their choice. The eight scholarships were presented to the Believers & Achievers who demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, participated in NSAA activities and were involved in school and community projects during their high school career.

- **Believers & Achievers Scholarship Winners**

The NSAA and U.S. Bank are proud to recognize the accomplishments of eight Believers & Achievers. U.S. Bank representatives Steve Erwin and Dolores Terwey presented \$500 scholarships to Courtney Anderson (Adams Central), Kevin Sousek (East Butler), Taylor Rhoades (Giltner), Kate Staab (Lincoln Lutheran), Hope Wilke (North Platte), Andy Vasquez (Omaha Burke), Emma Scheel (Waverly) and Austin Haufle (Wilber-Clatonia). A brief biography of each scholarship winner is listed below.

### **2015-16 Believers & Achievers Scholarship Winners**

**Courtney Anderson**

**Adams Central High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0

NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Track & Field, Journalism, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: 2015 NSAA Class B Track & Field Championships 5<sup>th</sup> Place Medalist in Pole Vault; 3-time NSAA Class B Cross Country Championships Qualifier; Earned Multiple Superior Ratings at NSAA District Music Contests; NCPA Academic All-State Cross Country (2013, 2014, 2015) & Track & Field (2016)

School Involvement: Student Council President, Cheerleading Captain, Future Business Leaders of America, FFA

Community Involvement: 4-H Member, K9 Companions 4 Life Committee, HL Pet Connection Volunteer

College/University: Chadron State College

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**Kevin Sousek****East Butler High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0

NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Track & Field, Play Production, Speech, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: NCPA Academic All-State Cross Country (2014 & 2015), Play Production (2015) and Track & Field (2016); Earned Superior Ratings at NSAA District Speech Contests (Persuasive & Extemporaneous Speaking); 3-time NSAA District Speech Medalist

School Involvement: FFA President, Quiz Bowl, Academic Decathlon, FCCLA Member, National Honor Society, "A" Honor Roll

Community Involvement: Church Volunteer & CCD Participant, County Fair Volunteer, Bloodmobile Blood Donor, Cornhusker Boys' State City Council Member

College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Taylor Rhoades****Giltner High School**

Grade Point Average: 3.87

NSAA Activity Participation: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Play Production, Speech, Journalism, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: Member of Giltner's 2013 & 2014 NSAA Class D2 Volleyball State Champion Teams; Member of Giltner's 2015 NSAA Class D2 Volleyball Championship Qualifying Team; Member of Giltner's 2015 NSAA Class D2 Girls Basketball Championship Qualifying Team

School Involvement: Student Council Member, G-Club Member, Honor Roll, Crossroads Conference Sportsmanship Banquet

Community Involvement: Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer, Church Volunteer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Member

College/University: University of Nebraska-Kearney

**Kate Staab****Lincoln Lutheran High School**

Grade Point Average: 3.9

NSAA Activity Participation: Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Play Production

Activity Honors and Awards: NCPA Academic All-State Girls Basketball (2016) and Track & Field (2014, 2015 & 2016); 2-time NSAA Track & Field Championship Medalist (2013 Class B 7<sup>th</sup> Place – 4x100M Relay, 2015 Class C 4<sup>th</sup> Place – 4x100M Relay); Member of Lincoln Lutheran's 2015 NSAA Class C Track & Field Championship Runner-Up Team

School Involvement: Cheerleading Captain, Student Council President, Youth Sports Organizer

Community Involvement: STARS Mentor, Bright Lights Assistant, Community Blood Drive Volunteer, Senator Youth Advisory Council Member

College/University: Northwestern College (IA)

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**Hope Wilke****North Platte High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0

NSAA Activity Participation: Volleyball, Girls Golf, Basketball, Track & Field, Play Production, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: NSAA Class A Track & Field Championships Qualifier in Shot Put (2013 & 2015) and Discus (2014, 2015 & 2016); Member of North Platte's 2014 NSAA Class A Volleyball Championships Qualifying Team; Earned Multiple Superior Ratings at NSAA District Music Contest; NCPA Academic All-State Track & Field (2014 & 2016) and Girls Golf (2015)

School Involvement: National Honors Society, Student Council Chief of Staff, Student Government Sergeant of Arms, Sportsmanship Council

Community Involvement: Circle Hill 4-H Treasurer, County 4-H Council Member, Youth Group Member, Haiti Mission Trip

College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Andrew Vasquez****Omaha Burke High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0

NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: 4-time NSAA Class A Track & Field Championships Qualifier & 2016 All-Class Gold Medal in the 3200M Relay; 2-time NSAA Class A Cross Country Championships Qualifier & 2014 8<sup>th</sup> Place Medalist; 2015 NSAA Swimming & Diving Championships 7<sup>th</sup> Place Medalist in the 400 Yard Freestyle Relay; Earned Multiple Superior Ratings at NSAA District Music Contests

School Involvement: National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Latino Scholar Award, Focus Program Student Council, Show Choir

Community Involvement: Church Volunteer, Nebraska All-State Choir, Youth Track Coach

College/University: Nebraska Wesleyan University

**Emma Scheel****Waverly High School**

Grade Point Average: 3.99

NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Soccer, Play Production, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: 2012 NSAA Class B Cross Country Championships Qualifier; Selected as a National Anthem Singer for NSAA Wrestling Championships (2014 & 2015); Earned Multiple Superior Ratings at NSAA District Music Contests for Vocal Performance; 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Eastern Midlands Conference Soccer (2015); NCPA Academic All-State Soccer (2016), Music (2015), Cross Country (2013) & Play Production (2012)

School Involvement: National Honor Society, Drama Club, Leadership A&P, Wallflower Project Founder

Community Involvement: Youth Group Planning Committee, CHI Health Volunteer, NHS Mentoring Program

College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Austin Haufle****Wilber-Clatonia High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0

NSAA Activity Participation: Football, Wrestling, Track & Field, Music

Activity Honors and Awards: 2015 & 2016 NSAA Class C Individual Wrestling Qualifier; Member of Wilber-Clatonia's 2015 NSAA Class C1 Football Playoffs Semifinalist Team

School Involvement: FFA Chapter President, National Honor Society Events Chairman, Student Council Sergeant at Arms, TCBY Member, Valedictorian

Community Involvement: FFA Trash Pick-up Coordinator, Czech Days Marching Band, Czech Days Beseda Dancer Performer/Teacher, Back to School Volunteer

College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- **Banquet Highlights**

In addition to the scholarship presentations, the Believers & Achievers Banquet had a featured speaker for the evening: Super Bowl 50 referee and Nebraska native, Mr. Clete Blakeman.

- **Believers and Achievers Recognized**

All of the 2015-16 Believers & Achievers honored throughout the course of the activities year were also recognized at the banquet. The names and high schools of all winners are listed below.

Courtney Anderson, **Adams Central**  
Allison Pokorny, **Aquinas Catholic**  
Austin Ragland, **Beatrice**  
Kendra Heddens, **Bennington**  
Kara Philips, **Bertrand**  
Molly Lambert, **Chambers**  
Ryan Pauley, **Columbus**  
Rachel Shadley, **Columbus Lakeview**  
Lydia Schaecher, **Columbus Scotus**  
Brook Baller, **Creighton**  
Nathan Singh, **Creighton Preparatory**  
Kevin Sousek, **East Butler**  
Samantha Funk, **Ewing**  
Ryan Umland, **Fairbury**  
Hadley Kirk, **Gering**  
Taylor Rhoades, **Giltner**

Sadie Goering, **Grand Island CC**  
Kate Knobbe, **Guardian Angels CC**  
Noel Hrnchir, **Hastings St. Cecilia**  
Christopher Warneke, **Heartland Lutheran**  
Alexandra Alber, **Holdrege**  
Rose Wehrman, **Kenesaw**  
Joelly Anderson, **Lexington**  
Kate Staab, **Lincoln Lutheran**  
Madison Schossow, **Lincoln North Star**  
Liam Kruse, **Lincoln Pius X**  
Carter Knopik, **Lincoln Southwest**  
Jamel Johnson, **Madison**  
Dalton Engelbart, **Malcolm**  
Vincent Malene, **Millard South**  
Faith Otte, **Nebraska Lutheran**  
Hope Wilke, **North Platte**

Chase Coggins, **Ogallala**  
Abhinav Suresh, **Omaha Brownell-Talbot**  
Andrew Vasquez, **Omaha Burke**  
McKenna Paintin, **Omaha Central**  
Sarah McCarty, **Omaha North**  
Emma Dargy, **Papillion-LaVista**  
Matthew Holloway, **Scottsbluff**  
Alexa Bruick, **Seward**  
Megan Neal, **Sidney**  
Haley Fritza, **South Sioux City**  
Mitchael Sieh, **Stanton**  
Kadin Copeland, **Sutherland**  
Lauren Crockett, **Wahoo**  
Emma Scheel, **Waverly**  
Austin Haufle, **Wilber-Clatonia**  
Olivia Wieseler, **Wynot**