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For Immediate Release

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

• **Believers & Achievers Banquet Held at Country Club of Lincoln**

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 20th annual scholarship banquet on April 30th at the Country Club of Lincoln in Lincoln. The festivities highlighted the process that began last September 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 Bob Balfany and Dolores Terwey presented \$500 scholarships to Ann Hunhoff (Bloomfield), Cole Tessendorf (Columbus Lakeview), Mary O'Keeffe (Hastings St. Cecilia), Ethan Hall (Heartland), Katie Hastings (Lincoln Southwest), Andrew Phares (North Platte), James McArtor (Perkins County) and Annalise Lecher (Sidney). A brief biography of each scholarship winner is listed below.

2016-17 Believers & Achievers Scholarship Winners

Ann Hunhoff

Bloomfield High School

Grade Point Average:	4.0
NSAA Activity Participation:	Music, Play Production, Speech
Activity Honors and Awards:	Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State
School Involvement:	FFA, National Honor Society, Student Council, Yearbook
Community Involvement:	Luther League Member, Vacation Bible School, Horticultural Group and Relay for Life volunteer
College/University:	Drake University

Cole Tessendorf**Columbus Lakeview High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
NSAA Activity Participation: Football, Music, Speech, Track & Field
Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State, Superior Ratings and Outstanding Performance Awards in District Music (2014, 2015, 2016)
School Involvement: FBLA, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Student Tutor
Community Involvement: Center for Survivors Revolution Group volunteer, Cornhusker Boys State delegate, Peace Lutheran Group member
College/University: Augustana University

Mary O’Keeffe**Hastings St. Cecilia High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Play Production, Track & Field
Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State
School Involvement: NSAA Student Advisory Committee, Student Council, Teens for Life
Community Involvement: Catholic Social Services volunteer, Mayor’s Youth Council, Teens Leading Teens
College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ethan Hall**Heartland High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
NSAA Activity Participation: Football, Music, Play Production
Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State, Superior Ratings in District Music (2014, 2015, 2016)
School Involvement: FBLA, FCA, National Honor Society, Student Council
Community Involvement: Church Youth Group volunteer; NMEA All-State Chorus
College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Katie Hastings**Lincoln Southwest High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.37
NSAA Activity Participation: Cross Country, Track & Field
Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State, Class A State Track & Field Championship team member (2014, 2015)
School Involvement: HOSA, National Honor Society, Students Against Cancer, Southwest Athletic Leadership Team member
Community Involvement: North American Martyrs Church and Relay for Life volunteer, Godteens member
College/University: University of Nebraska-Kearney

Andrew Phares**North Platte High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
 NSAA Activity Participation: Music, Speech
 Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State, Class B State Speech Championships Informative Speaking Qualifier (2016)
 School Involvement: Jazz Band, Marching Band, National Honor Society
 Community Involvement: Red Cross, Salvation Army, Grace Ministry Pantry and Autism Society volunteer; Boy Scout, Church Youth Group member
 College/University: Raikes School at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

James McArtor**Perkins County High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
 NSAA Activity Participation: Football, Golf, Music, Speech
 Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, Class D1 State Football Playoff Team member (2015)
 School Involvement: FFA, Marching Band, National Honor Society
 Community Involvement: Boy Scout, Church Youth Group member
 College/University: University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Annalise Lecher**Sidney High School**

Grade Point Average: 4.0
 NSAA Activity Participation: Basketball, Track & Field, Volleyball
 Activity Honors and Awards: Honor Roll, NCPA Academic All-State
 School Involvement: FCA, National Honor Society, Red Zone Council, Skills USA, Student Council
 Community Involvement: Table of Grace Food Pantry volunteer, Teens in Prevention, Church Youth Group member
 College/University: Undecided

- **Banquet Highlights**

In addition to the scholarship presentations, the Believers & Achievers Banquet had a featured speaker for the evening: two-time Olympic Medalist and Nebraska native, Mr. Curt Tomasevicz.

- **Believers and Achievers Recognized**

All of the 2016-17 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.

Hannah Fleischer, **Adams Central**
Taylor Henry, **Ansley**
Abigail Lyons, **Aquinas Catholic**
Elsielynn Burke, **Ashland-Greenwood**
Tia Buhr, **Beatrice**
Kenny Allred, **Bellevue West**
Cooper Grabenstein, **Bertrand**
Ann Hunhoff, **Bloomfield**
Alexis Corman, **Bridgeport**
Kylie Thiele, **Clearwater-Orchard**
Caitlin Broekemeier, **Columbus**
Cole Tessendorf, **Columbus Lakeview**
Garrison Hazen, **Creighton**
Veronica Miller, **Crete**
Noah Moreano, **Elkhorn**
Tyler Miller, **Elkhorn Valley**
Taylor Donner, **Emerson-Hubbard**

Jade Hill, **Falls City Sacred Heart**
Kyle Otto, **Freeman**
Katie Voichahoske, **Fullerton**
Rebecca Boyd, **Gering**
Mary O'Keeffe, **Hastings St. Cecilia**
Ethan Hall, **Heartland**
Kennedy Kluthe, **Kearney Catholic**
Regan Taubenheim, **Lincoln Pius X**
Katie Hastings, **Lincoln Southwest**
Courtney Sandell, **Malcolm**
Wolf Lucas, **Millard South**
Andrew Phares, **North Platte**
David Bredthauer, **Omaha Brownell-Talbot**
Tyler Cunningham, **Omaha Burke**
Catherin Christopherson, **Omaha North**
Makayla Hasch, **Omaha Northwest**

Bennett Hellman, **Omaha Westside**
Kathryn Keller, **Papillion-La Vista**
James McArtor, **Perkins County**
Braden Hadwiger, **Pleasanton**
Hannah Buswell, **Ralston**
Angela Medina, **Schuyler**
Emily Ostdiek, **Scottsbluff**
Annalise Lecher, **Sidney**
Graham Palsma, **South Sioux City**
Micah Erickson, **Sterling**
Colby Ensz, **Tri County**
Riley Beel, **Valentine**
Madisen Randa, **Verdigre**
Jackson VanLaningham, **Wilcox-Hildreth**
Callie Finn, **Winside**