



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EducationQuest awards \$138,000 in Reaching Your Potential Scholarship funds to 24 Nebraskans

(Lincoln, Neb.) EducationQuest announced today that 24 Nebraskans have been awarded a total of \$138,000 in Reaching Your Potential Scholarship funds.

EducationQuest's Reaching Your Potential Scholarship Program provides renewable scholarships to low-income Nebraska students who face obstacles to college. Applicants are referred by community agencies, colleges, and select high schools across the state. Recipients attending a two-year college receive \$3,000 annually, and recipients attending a four-year college receive \$6,300 annually.

Since the program began in 2000, EducationQuest has awarded more than \$7.4 million in scholarships to 622 Nebraskans. Of these, 81 percent are either currently enrolled in college or have graduated.

Vice President of Grants and Scholarships Eric Drumheller said, "We are humbled by the challenges our Reaching Your Potential Scholars face. The stories of these incredible students are simultaneously heartbreaking and inspiring. We are excited to welcome them into the program and work with them as they earn their college degree."

Twenty-three of the scholarship recipients are listed below alphabetically by hometown, along with the college they are attending or plan to attend. One student chose to remain anonymous.

Paw Ka Pru Htoo, who will attend Nebraska Methodist College in her hometown of Omaha, was named this year's *Tammi J. Preston Scholar*. The recognition is named after the late Tammi Preston, EducationQuest's long-time director of Outreach Services who passed away in 2011. The recognition honors the top-qualifying Reaching Your Potential recipient in each scholarship cycle.

Amelia: Kassidy Hoerle, Chadron State College

Bayard: Shelbi Klingsporn, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Emmet: Paulina Lopez Cobos, Northeast Community College

- Gibbon:** Nylin Bowers, Central Community College
- Laurel:** Cassandra Granquist, Wayne State College
- Lincoln:** Irma Alferez, Nebraska Wesleyan University
Ricardo Gato Gil, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Umayah Murad, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Zephyr Rose-McNeeLee, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- Omaha:** Ney Blui, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Paw Ka Pru Htoo, Nebraska Methodist College – *Tammi J. Preston Scholar*
Halima Hussein, College of Saint Mary
Mae Lin, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Agoum Monydhel, Creighton University
Paw Soe, University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Alyssa States, Wayne State College
Nyaruo Teng, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Mu Thaw, Nebraska Methodist College
Yajaira Villagomez, University of Nebraska at Omaha
Shayla Webb, College of Saint Mary
Za Za Win, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Tecumseh:** Gina Golden, Southeast Community College
- West Point:** Alyssa Kandies, Northeast Community College

For additional information about the Reaching Your Potential Scholarship program, [click here](#).

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EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska. Headquartered in Lincoln, EducationQuest provides free college planning services, need-based scholarship programs, college access grants for high schools, and outreach services for community agencies. For more information, visit EducationQuest.org or call 800.303.3745.