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United Hospital District Foundation Announces Scholarship Awards

Eleven Area High School Students Honored

Blue Earth, MN – June 25, 2025 – United Hospital District (UHD) announced today that its Foundation Board has selected 11 recipients for their Healthcare Scholarship Award Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The UHD Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial support to UHD to ensure continued healthcare excellence in the communities served by UHD. Scholarships of \$1,000 were offered to seniors from area high schools: Blue Earth Area; Fairmont; Granada Huntley East Chain; Martin County West (Sherburn); Martin Luther (Northrup); North Union (Armstrong, IA); and United South Central (Wells). To be eligible, seniors must have been accepted into an accredited academic program and plan to major in a healthcare field. Applicants were required to write an essay expressing their educational and career goals and influences on career choice, provide verification of current grade point average, and a letter of recommendation from a non-family member.

The Foundation received 30 applications in total; all students were high performers in academics, athletics, community service, volunteerism, and the arts. Recipients were selected using several considerations, including a desire to return and serve their home community after completing their degree and training. UHD representatives attended senior awards events to present these recipients with their award certificates:

Blue Earth Area High School: Jackelyn Martinez, Nursing; Hunter Viland, Biology; Rhionna Weerts, Exercise Science/Physical Therapy

Fairmont Jr/Sr High School: Haleigh Grotzinger, Nursing; Meredith Nemmers, Pharmacy

Granada Huntley East Chain High School: Lindsay Diegnau, Biology (Physician Assistant)

Martin County West High School: Meia Schuett, Radiology Technician/Nursing

Martin Luther High School: Bethany Foster, Nursing

North Union High School: Aubrey Knowles, Radiology Technician

United South Central High School: Reyna Gallardo, Nursing; Brylee Neubauer, Nursing

“The Foundation was thrilled to have so many wonderful candidates from which to choose. Final decisions were especially difficult since all applicants were similar in academic achievement, school activity, and community service,” said Paula Kabe, UHD Foundation Coordinator.

The recipients were selected by the UHD Foundation board, which is comprised of these community representatives and UHD staff members:

- Lars Bierly – Blue Earth
- Ronda Dahl, RN – Elmore
- Aaron Johnson, MD – Blue Earth
- Cory Milbrandt – Blue Earth
- Mark Warmka – Easton
- Eric Wegner – Wells
- Rick Ash, UHD CEO
- Paula Kabe, UHD Foundation Coordinator and Administration Office Manager

To learn more about the UHD Foundation or make a donation, visit the [uhd.org](https://www.uhd.org), contact info@uhd.org, or call 507-526-3273.

About UHD:

United Hospital District (www.uhd.org), based in Blue Earth, MN, is an independent system of care comprised of a 25-bed acute care hospital, comprehensive outpatient services, ambulance service and a home health/hospice care program, all supported by a 25-plus multi-specialty provider group with three clinic locations across two counties. UHD was recognized as a 2025 Best Small Hospital for Obstetrics, a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, a 2023 Best Small Hospital Under 25 Beds, and a 2022 Top 200 Workplace in Minnesota.

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