



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Suzanne Montanaro
Marketing Manager
(507) 526-6168
smontanaro@uhd.org

United Hospital District Foundation Announces Scholarship Awards
Eight Local High School Students Named as Recipients

Blue Earth, MN – May 31, 2022 – United Hospital District (UHD) announced today that its Foundation Board has selected eight recipients for their Healthcare Scholarship Award Program for the 2021-2022 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 six area high schools: Blue Earth Area; Fairmont; Granada Huntley East Chain; United South Central (Wells, MN); North Iowa (Buffalo Center, IA); and North Union (Armstrong, IA). To be eligible, seniors must be accepted into an accredited academic program and planning 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 a total of 29 applications; all students were very high performers in academics, athletics, community service and volunteerism, and the arts. Winners were selected using several considerations, including a desire to return and serve their home community after completing their degree and training. The winners are:

Blue Earth Area High School: Callena Ferguson, Pre-Med with an Integrative Medicine emphasis, University of Arizona; and Kylie Rosenau, Biochemistry/Pre-Med, South Dakota State University.

Fairmont Jr/Sr High School: Alec Reutzel, Biology/Pre-Med, Augustana University; and Carissa Saxton, Rehabilitation Science/Pre-Physical Therapy, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Granda Huntley East Chain High School: Merissa Cartwright, Nursing, South Dakota State University.

North Iowa High School: Leah Kramersmeier, Radiology Tech, Iowa Central Community College.

North Union High School: Rachel Henricksen, Nursing, Northwestern College.

United South Central High School: Skylar Niebuhr, Nursing, University of North Dakota.

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

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

- **Lars Bierly*** – Blue Earth, MN
- **Ronda Dahl, RN*** – Elmore, MN
- Millicent Hanson – Winnebago, MN
- Doug Johanson – Winnebago, MN
- Aaron Johnson, MD – Blue Earth, MN
- Cory Milbrandt – Blue Earth, MN
- **Mark Warmka*** – Easton, MN
- Eric Wegner – Wells, MN
- Rick Ash, UHD CEO
- **Paula Kabe***, UHD Foundation Coordinator and Administration Executive Assistant

The Foundation intends to continue and expand this scholarship program in the future. To learn more about the UHD Foundation or make a donation, contact info@uhd.org, 507-526-3273, or visit the [Foundation on uhd.org](http://Foundation.on.uhd.org).

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 20-plus multi-specialty provider group with four clinic locations across two counties. The UHD Foundation is dedicated to providing financial support to UHD to ensure continued healthcare excellence in the communities we serve.

###