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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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

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

**Blue Earth, MN – June 5, 2023** – United Hospital District (UHD) announced today that its Foundation Board has selected nine recipients for their Healthcare Scholarship Award Program for the 2022-2023 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 eight area high schools: Blue Earth Area; Fairmont; Granada Huntley East Chain; Martin County West (Sherburn); Martin Luther (Northrup); North Iowa (Buffalo Center, IA); North Union (Armstrong, IA); and United South Central (Wells). 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 23 applications; all students were very high performers in academics, athletics, community service and 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 six senior awards events to present these recipients with their award certificates:

**Blue Earth Area High School:** Emma Ringness, Nursing & Health Science, Minnesota State University-Mankato; and Mya Steinhauer, Dietetics, Iowa State University.

**Fairmont Jr/Sr High School:** Taylor Madsen, Nursing BSN, Rasmussen, Mankato

**Granada Huntley East Chain High School:** Hayley Stensland, Exercise Science, Southwest Minnesota State University

**Martin County West High School:** Sydney Borntreger, Biomedical Science, Buena Vista University

**Martin Luther High School:** Jakob Fischer, Physical Therapy, University of Minnesota-Duluth

**North Union High School:** Brynn Tirevold, Radiology Technology, Iowa Central Community College.

**United South Central High School:** Ethan Koehler, Nursing, St. John’s University; and Molly Wegner, Surgical Technology, Southeast Technical College, Sioux Falls

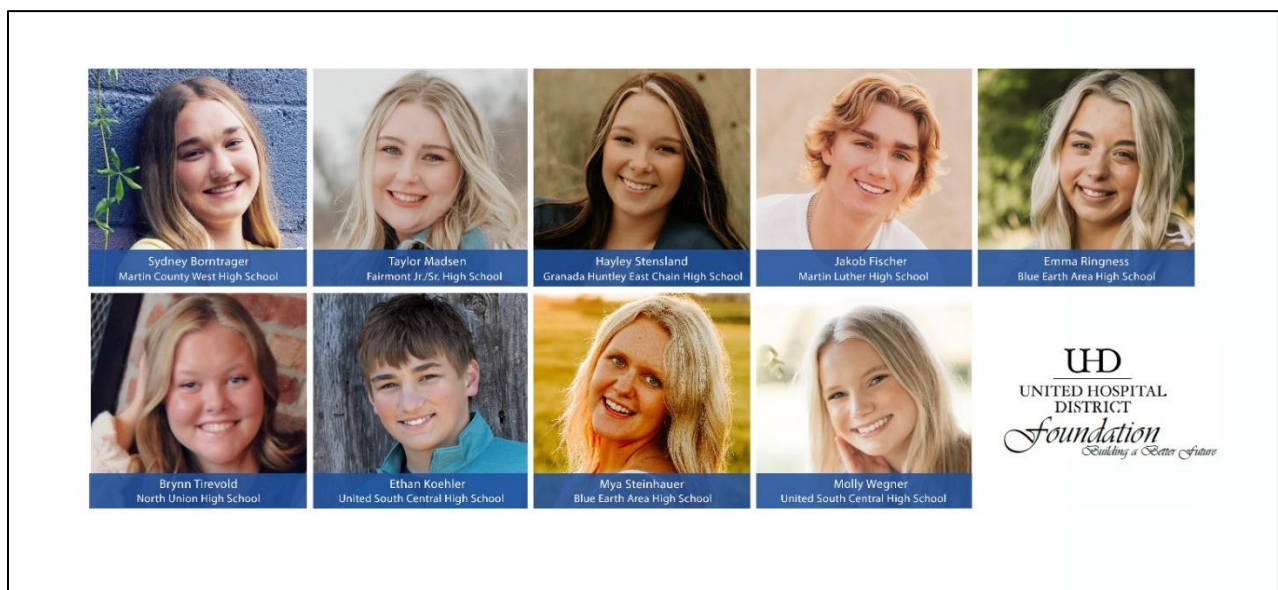
“The Foundation was thrilled to have so many wonderful candidates from which to choose. Final decisions were especially difficult since all applicants were similar in academic achievement, school activity, and community service,” said Paula Kabe, UHD Foundation Coordinator.

The nine 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
- Douglas Johanson – Winnebago, MN
- Aaron Johnson, MD – Blue Earth, MN
- **Cory Milbrandt\*** – Blue Earth, MN
- Mark Warmka – Easton, MN
- Eric Wegner – Wells, MN (*withdrew from voting*)
- Rick Ash, UHD CEO
- **Paula Kabe\***, UHD Foundation Coordinator and Administration Executive Assistant

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

United Hospital District ([www.uhd.org](http://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 three 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.



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