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74 Iowans receive over \$100,000 in scholarships to work in long-term care from Iowa Health Care Association Foundation

West Des Moines, Iowa – Earlier this week, the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Foundation awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to 74 Iowans seeking to further their health care education in the long-term care sector. The recipients include current long-term care workers, high school students, first-generation college students and individuals from rural communities. Scholarships provide for the cost of a variety of health care and leadership programs to equip health care workers with the skills they need to work in long-term care.

“As Iowa's senior population continues to grow and the need for long-term care services rises, the IHCA Foundation is committed to training skilled, compassionate professionals to meet these needs,” said IHCA Foundation Program Director Natalie Thompson. “Our 2025 scholarship initiatives, generously made possible by donors, aim to support driven individuals in building their careers in long-term care. The overwhelming response from applicants is truly inspiring, and we applaud this year’s recipients for their dedication to this essential field. Their contributions are invaluable, and we are excited to see the positive difference they will make in countless lives.”

More than 200 applications were received for this year’s scholarships. Scholarship applications were evaluated by the IHCA Foundation Board of Directors based upon the applicant’s experience, recommendations and future educational and career goals in long-term care. This year’s IHCA Foundation scholarship recipients include:

IHCA Member Employee Scholarship Recipients

This \$1,500 scholarship is for IHCA member organization employees pursuing a nursing, health care administration or physical or occupational therapy training program and is made possible by Iowa Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (IPALTC), IHCA Nurse Connect, Iowa Council of Activity Professionals (ICAP), IHCA Districts, Assured Partners, Brighton Consulting Group, Blue Stone Therapy, Consonus Pharmacy, Lee Agency, Martin Bros. Distributing Co., Inc., McKesson, NuCara Long-Term Care Pharmacy and Home Medical, Right Dose, A Guardian Pharmacy and Provider Partners.

1. Stacey Apodaca, Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center – Klein Center
2. Shelby Archer, Bethany Lutheran Health Services
3. Amanda Becker, Stonehill Communities
4. Olivia Bell, Terrace Glen Village
5. Maren Buckingham, Westview Acres Care Center

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6. Eliana Cangro, Accura Healthcare of Muscatine
7. Teresa Clark, Prairie Vista Village
8. Sabine Deka, Deerfield Community
9. Hailey Dirksen, Bickford Cottage of Sioux City
10. Elizabeth Farley, Silvercrest Garner Farms Senior Living
11. Felicia Gonzalez, Homestead of Oskaloosa
12. Indee Grassley, Western Home Communities
13. Brianna Henning, Solon Retirement Village
14. Taia Hillhouse, Chautauqua Guest Homes
15. Ashley Hoffman, Lake Mills Care Center
16. Luca Knoblock, Fellowship Village
17. Madison Koehn, English Valley Care Center
18. Rachel Leuschen, Great River Health Systems (Klein Center)
19. Sydnee Lindeman, Forest Plaza Assisted Living
20. Hannah Lunning, Good Shepherd Health Center
21. Emma Myers, Accura Healthcare of Lake City
22. Mary Sarah Nakimera, Bethany Home Retirement Community
23. Naomi Urielle Ndome Ngueng, Immanuel Pathways of Central Iowa
24. Abigail Nelson, St. Luke Lutheran Nursing Home
25. Kelly Olson, River Bend Retirement Community
26. Marie Patouma, Green Hills Retirement Community
27. Paige Pothoff, Regency Park Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Carroll
28. Abigail Riley, Thomas Rest Haven
29. Ella Scheitler, Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community
30. Saige Smith, Community Care Center, Inc.
31. Breanna Streeter, Westhaven Community
32. Vanessa Vega, Davenport Lutheran Home
33. Kassie Wyatt, Humboldt County Memorial Hospital
34. Morgan Zuck, Buchanan County Health Center

John W. & Kimberly D. Grubb Registered Nurse (RN) Scholarship Recipients

This \$2,000 scholarship is made possible by the John R. and Zelda Z. Grubb Charitable Foundation and is for employees of IHCA member organizations pursuing an RN degree. Eight scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Kirsten Albright, Pleasantview
2. Aubree Arthur, St. Francis Manor
3. Erin Helmich, St. Luke Lutheran Nursing Home
4. Nataleigh Herron, Granger Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
5. Rachel Holdridge, Stonehill Communities

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6. Chanda Jensen, Boyson Heights Senior Living
7. Brandy Watson, Karen Acres Health Care Center
8. Adelle Wolfswinkel, Prairie View Home Inn

John W. & Kimberly D. Grubb Registered Nurse (RN) Endowment Fund Scholarship Recipient

This \$3,000 scholarship is made possible by the John R. and Zelda Z. Grubb Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund and is for an employee of an IHCA member organization pursuing an RN degree. One scholarship was awarded to the following recipient:

1. Filmawit Okubay, The Bridges at Ankeny

MolinaCares High School Scholarship Recipients

This \$2,000 scholarship, made possible by The Molina Healthcare Charitable Foundation (MolinaCares), is for Iowa high school seniors enrolled in a certified nursing assistant (CNA), licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN), associate of science in nursing (ASN) or Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) program upon graduation from high school, and interested in a future career in long-term care. Nine scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Ana Cortes, Beckman Catholic High School
2. Alyssa Eckhardt, Midland Community High School
3. Anyeli Garcia Martinez, East High School
4. Khamil Jebesen, Maquoketa High School
5. Gracie Knobloch, Hartley Melvern Sanborn
6. Ally Lundell, OABCIG High School
7. Alannah McKibben, Iowa Valley High School
8. Addyson Schreck, Central Decatur High School
9. Ella Shannon, Manson Northwest Webster High School

Care Initiatives Director of Nursing (DON) Leadership Scholarship Recipients

This scholarship is for directors of nursing (DONs), assistant directors of nursing (ADONs) or registered nurses (RNs) interested in pursuing the American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing (AAPACN) DNS-CT (Director of Nursing Services – Certified) certification, and is made possible by Care Initiatives. Seven scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Katie Candia, West Ridge Care Center
2. Kelli Gustafson, Dunlap Specialty Care
3. Chelsi Isley, Via of Carlisle
4. Ashley Jackson, On With Life
5. Jillian Kueter, Mill Valley Care Center
6. Tawnya Larsen, Panora Specialty Care
7. Reese Miller, Lyon Specialty Care

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Care Initiatives New Director of Nursing (DON) Scholarship Recipients

This scholarship is for is for directors of nursing (DONs), assistant directors of nursing (ADONs) or registered nurses (RNs) working in long-term care and is made possible by Care Initiatives. Six scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Heather Aguilera, Prairie Vista Village
2. Tiffany Graves, Clarence Senior Living
3. Stephanie Robinson, On With Life
4. Jaime Sudtelgte, Accura Healthcare of Sioux City
5. Lindsey Thorson, Nora Springs Care Center
6. Stacy Willard, Humboldt County Memorial Hospital LTC

Iowa Total Care Executive Health Care Leadership Institute Recipients

This \$1,500 scholarship is made possible by Iowa Total Care and is for leaders at IHCA member organizations interested in attending the 2025/2026 IHCA Executive Health Care Leadership Institute. Nine scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Ashley Eischeid, Bethany Life
2. Joseph Herst, Via of Des Moines (Fleur Heights)
3. Alyssa Poland, Kennybrook Village
4. Megan Rinner, Corning Specialty Care
5. Katie Seydel, Green Hills Retirement Community
6. Audrey Swanson, Luther Park Community
7. Jordan Tjaden, Midlands Living Center
8. Jessica Wagner, Homestead of Algona
9. Tyler Whitcanack, Good Samaritan Society – Le Mars

About the Iowa Health Care Association Foundation

Founded in 1988 by the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA), the mission of the IHCA Foundation is to foster excellence in long-term care for Iowans by building a stronger workforce. The IHCA Foundation carries out this mission by empowering individuals to reach their career goals in the long-term care profession through scholarships, career education and career access programs. IHCA Foundation programs help support career opportunities available in the long-term care continuum, including nursing facilities, assisted living programs, residential care facilities, senior living communities and home health agencies.

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