



For Immediate Release: July 24, 2026

Contact:

Dana Anderson, VP, Marketing
515-978-2204, dana@iowahealthcare.org

32 Iowans earn scholarships to pursue and advance long-term care careers

West Des Moines, Iowa – As Iowa faces growing demand for long-term care services and a need for more caregivers, the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Foundation this week awarded more than \$40,000 in scholarships to 32 Iowans preparing for and advancing their careers in long-term care. Recipients include current long-term care professionals, high school seniors planning to enter the field and individuals from rural Iowa communities. Scholarships help to cover the cost of education and training, equipping recipients with knowledge and skills to provide high-quality care for Iowans.

More than 160 applications were received for this year's scholarships from all four corners of the state. 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.

"As Iowa's senior population continues to grow and the need for long-term care services increases, investing in the dedicated caregivers of today and the workforce of tomorrow is more important than ever," said IHCA Foundation Program Director Natalie Thompson. "Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients. From current long-term care professionals advancing their education to high school seniors preparing to pursue careers in the field, every one of these scholarships represents another nurse, administrator or caregiver who will help meet Iowa's growing need for long-term care professionals. We are proud to recognize their achievements and celebrate the positive impact they have on residents, families and communities across Iowa." This year's IHCA Foundation scholarship recipients include:

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 nursing program upon graduation from an Iowa high school, and interested in a future career in long-term care. Nine scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Brooklin Ante, West Delaware High School (Manchester)
2. Baylee Bunning, Boone High School
3. Marissa Domino, Ridge View High School (Holstein)
4. Addison Gannon, Greene County High School (Jefferson)
5. Hayven Herman, Midland Community High School (Wyoming)
6. Addison Marcks, Osage High School
7. Mya Peterson, Lake Mills High School
8. Kelsey Schott, Tipton High School
9. Myra Veach, Dallas Center Grimes High School

[more]

Iowa Total Care Long-Term Care Workforce Scholarship Recipients

This \$1,500 scholarship is for long-term care employees pursuing a nursing, health care administration, physical, speech, occupational therapy or other long-term care-related degree program and is made possible by Iowa Total Care. Nine scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Sabine Deka, Deerfield Retirement Community Inc. (Urbandale)
2. Mikaela Fichter, Midlands Living Center, LLC (Council Bluffs)
3. Indee Grassley, Western Home Communities (Cedar Falls)
4. Rebekah Halsey, Edgewood Convalescent Home
5. Bethany Hopkins, Solon Retirement Village
6. Amy Robards, Accura HealthCare of Milford
7. Jamie Roberts, Winslow House Care Center (Marion)
8. Kayla Swanson, Pioneer Park (Lone Tree)
9. Savannah Van Beek, Fellowship Village (Inwood)

Care Initiatives Director of Nursing (DON) Leadership Scholarship Recipients

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

1. Cambria Emanuel, Casa de Paz Health Care Center (Sioux City)
2. Rosemary Hibbs, Community Memorial Health Center (Hartley)
3. Lori Johnson, Good Samaritan Society - Algona
4. Walter Kosgei, Granger Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
5. Meaghan Sager, Atlantic Specialty Care
6. Michaela Stoltenberg, Odebolt Specialty Care
7. Tana Woodin, Fonda Specialty Care

Care Initiatives New DON Scholarship Recipients

This scholarship is for new DONs, ADONs or RNs working in long-term care and is made possible by Care Initiatives. Six scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

1. Wynn Christen, Edgewood Convalescent Home
2. Crystal Gace, Denison Care Center
3. Alissa Madsen, Chariton Specialty Care
4. Alexandria May, The Alverno Health Care Facility (Clinton)
5. Emma Slabaugh, Pleasantview (Kalona)
6. Brandy Watson, Karen Acres Healthcare Center (Urbandale)

John W. & Kimberly D. Grubb RN Scholarship Recipient

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

1. Cambria Sebastian, Evans Senior Living (Cresco)

[more]

The scholarships are funded through partnerships with Care Initiatives, Iowa Total Care, MolinaCares and the John R. and Zelda Z. Grubb Charitable Foundation, whose support helps prepare the next generation of long-term care professionals serving older Iowans.

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.

###