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## **State Securities Division Announces Essay Contest Winners**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Division of Securities announces eight South Dakota students have been named winners in the sixth annual essay contest promoting the investor education and protection initiative.

High school seniors were invited to submit five-page essays on “How to Create Financial Independence by Understanding Five Principles of Investing” to win cash prizes up to \$5,000.

The Division of Securities received 257 entries from 28 schools. Essays were judged on their content and placed in one of four levels. After essays were categorized, Division officials randomly selected two winners from each level. 2010-2011 contest winners include:

- First Place, \$5,000 each: Evan Schoenfelder of Parkston and Briana Jung of Warner
- Second Place, \$3,000 each: Allison Kathol of Yankton and Jake Buckmiller of West Central
- Third Place, \$2,000 each: Rebecca Steadman of Centerville and Trenton Giddings of Harrold
- Fourth Place, \$1,000 each: Holly Schenk of Irene-Wakonda and Tony Doherty of Sioux Falls O’Gorman

Students submitting essays had to be sponsored by a teacher from their high school. Educators sponsoring the winning students received cash prizes up to \$500. 2010-2011 educator sponsor winners include:

- First Place, \$500 each: Tyler Hockett of Parkston and Thomas Kulesa of Warner
- Second Place, \$300 each: Lelia Elder of Yankton and Cindy Schumacher of West Central
- Third Place, \$200 each: Lisa Kraning of Centerville and Jackie Knox of Highmore-Harrold
- Fourth Place, \$100 each: Mike King of Irene-Wakonda and Jane Bradfield of Sioux Falls O’Gorman

In addition, \$500 was awarded to Mr. Hockett for sponsoring the most student essays.

One teacher was also randomly drawn to win \$500, which was awarded to Michelle Pratt of Beresford.

An Investor Protection Trust (IPT) grant funded the essay contest. The IPT is a non-profit organization devoted to investor education. Since 1993, the IPT has worked with states to provide independent, objective investor education all Americans can use to make informed investment decisions. For more information, visit [www.investorprotection.org](http://www.investorprotection.org).