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## **Winners Announced in State Securities Division Essay Contest**

**PIERRE, S.D.** – The South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation announces eight South Dakota students have been named cash prize winners in the seventh 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 266 entries from 38 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. 2011-2012 contest winners include:

- First Place, \$5,000 each: Shannon Miller of West Central High School, Hartford and Evan Ireland of Rapid City Stevens High School
- Second Place, \$3,000 each: Kirstie Regas of Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School and Jussy Tuscherer of Northwestern Area High School, Mellette
- Third Place, \$2,000 each: Christopher Lee of St. Mary Catholic Schools, Dell Rapids and Katie Stahl of West Central High School, Hartford
- Fourth Place, \$1,000 each: Anthony Vearrier of Plankinton High School and David Deinert of Parkston High School.

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. 2011-2012 educator sponsor winners include:

- First Place, \$500 each: JoAnne Bohl of West Central High School, Hartford and Deb Reynolds of Rapid City Stevens High School
- Second Place, \$300 each: Penny Brunken of Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School and Anne Frericks of Northwestern Area High School, Mellette
- Third Place, \$200 each: Amanda Geraets of St. Mary Catholic Schools, Dell Rapids and JoAnne Bohl of West Central High School, Hartford
- Fourth Place, \$100 each: Todd Karst of Plankinton High School and Tyler Hockett of Parkston High School.

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 Rodney Palo of Waverly-South Shore High School.

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).