

NEWS RELEASE



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MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION AWARDS \$74,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

St. Paul, MN – June 12, 2019 – The Minnesota Grocers Association Foundation (MGAF) awarded **\$25,000 in scholarships** to employees or their dependents from Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) member companies for the 2019-2020 school year. The Foundation Scholarship program helps students who are related to Minnesota’s food industry by supporting their educational growth.

Using funds raised from an annual golf event and silent auction, the MGAF is able to award scholarships and community grants. This year, the MGA Foundation received **355 applications** from **55 companies**. The twenty-five \$1,000 scholarships awarded represent the Minnesota food industry’s strong belief in the need for continued education. Since its inception the Foundation has awarded over **\$800,000** in scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded by an impartial committee of educators and based on community involvement and academic achievements.

The 2019 MGAF Scholarship Winners are: Ariana Abraham from **SpartanNash**, Brooke Bentzen from **Russ Davis Wholesale**, Madeline Bersie from **Coborn’s**, Ashley Christensen from **Erdman’s County Market**, Duffy Davidson from **Crystal Farms**, Casey Gohmann from **Gohmann’s Foods**, Ryan Hansen from **KEMPS**, Kyle Hanson from **County Market/Jerry’s Enterprises, Inc.**, Michael Heile from **UNFI / SUPERVALU**, Peyton Hoiness from **Rushford Foods**, Lilly Johnson from **Cub Foods/Jerry’s Enterprises, Inc.**, Andrew Krause from **Bennett’s Food Center**, Logan Ledman from **Lunds & Byerlys**, Talon Lenzen from **SpartanNash**, Alexis Pickard from **Russ Davis Wholesale**, Devon Rain from **Lunds & Byerlys**, Grace Rau from **UNFI/SUPERVALU**, Jacey Schlosser from **JC’s Grocery**, Austin Schmidt from **Groceries Plus**, Alexis Schmitz from **Elden’s Fresh Foods**, Addyson Struck from **Cub Foods**, Makaela Turner from **Coborn’s**, Adam Vossen from **Coborn’s**, Nicole Vranicar from **Kowalski’s Market**, and Daria Weinzierl from **Lunds & Byerlys**.

This year the Piggyback Scholarship Program was available for members of the MGA, allowing companies to “piggyback” on the MGAF application process in order to provide a scholarship program specifically for their employees and employees’ dependents. Ten member companies participated and awarded a combined **\$49,500** in scholarships to **59 students**.

The 2019 Piggyback Scholarship winners are: from **Chris' Food Center:** Abby Skluzacek and Sharon Stratton; from **Cub Foods:** Greta Briese, Justen Bushnell, Abigail Simon, Grace Winters, and Heidi Yang; from **Jerry's Enterprises, Inc.:** Jacob Arndt, Lila Berg, Natalie Bous, Conor Brown, Kyle Hanson, Kendra Held, Marco Hernandez, Lilly Johnson, Lauren Jurek, Jonathon Krueger, Samantha Krueger, Dominic Laurson, Andrew Lonnes, Joseph Nihart, Zachary Pecha, Lily Raschke, Joshua Riley, Alec Rudh, Isaac Schmidt Jonsen, and Gabriella Wenisch; from **KEMPS:** Benjamin Almquist, Brian Almquist, Catherine Cuthbert, Yasmina Dokara, Sheyenne Hamilton, and Brianna Kalbakdalen; from **Kowalski's Companies, Inc./Jim Kowalski Education Award:** Jessica Crosson, Alexandra Evenson, Caiden Gagner, Malissa Galush, Sarah Klassen, Josh Matara, Ana Nelson, Nicholas Nelson, Qintiantian Nong, Samuel Schroeder, Kaitlyn Valencour, and Nicole Vranicar; from **Mackenthun's Fine Foods:** Austin Pinske; from **Miner's, Inc. Achievement Scholarship:** Sara Artley, Natalie Blevins, Sullivan Kosmas, Jacob Schmidt, and Kalie Sjodin; from **S & R Qusberg, Inc.:** Braydon Koland; from **UNFI/SUPERVALU West Region Office:** Maggie Gehling, Robbie Grace, and Elizabeth Heile; and from **Teal's Management/George and Pearl Teal:** Lexi Goebel, McKenzie Laubach, Jackson Pearson, and Madison Platz.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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