Vermillion American Legion presents awards to students

Vermillion American Legion Post #1 announces the students chosen for the 2012 School Awards. Teachers from each of the elementary schools, St Agnes and middle school select students to receive the American Legion School Awards. Students from each grade are chosen annually for this honor. In addition to an American Legion School Award certificate, each student receives an American Legion Medal.

Chosen from Austin
Elementary were Maya
Radigan and Jacob Barber
for the First Grade. Jolley
School winners were Kodi
Cottam and Hari
Kadarkaraisamy for the
Second Grade, from the
Third Grade, Rebecca
Burcham and Dillion
Gestring; from the Fourth

Grade, Kelly Mulheron and Brady Martinez; from the Fifth Grade, Kaya Lewis and Jacob Mortinsen.

At the Middle School, Merrigan Iddings and Anthony Molina represented the Sixth Grade; Kyleigh Moran and Colton Rydstrom represented the Seventh Grade; and Kylee Retzlaff and Brandon Mockler were the winners from the Eighth Grade.

St. Agnes School award winners were Leah Herbster and Quinten Stange in the First Grade; Clare Dahlhoff and Zachary Brady in the Second Grade; Elaina Taggart and Nicholas Roob chosen in Grade Three; Zadya Abbott and Carly Peckham representing the Fourth Grade; and Amanda Havermann and

Regan Heine were the award winners in the Fifth Grade.

"Students chosen to receive this recognition from the American Legion are students who have demonstrated outstanding development of the qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship, Honesty, and Service." said Ray Hofman, Legion Americanism Officer, "and American Legion Post #1 is proud to recognize these young boys and girls who have been chosen by their teachers to represent their respective grades for the 2011 school year."

Legion members Dick Stensaas, Joe Conroy, Clinton Meadows and Gene Sanow assisted with the 2012 presentations.

entertaining & celebrations





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Six S.D. towns to welcome health professions students

This summer, 12 university students will learn first-hand about providing healthcare in rural South Dakota. This is thanks to six communities' collaborations with a grant program designed to raise awareness for the healthcare services needs in underserved areas of the state.

The six communities were selected as "Best Practice Model" sites for the Rural Experiences for **Health Professions** Students Program (REHPS) in 2012. The REHPS program connects interprofessional groups of students enrolled in medical, physician assistant, doctor of nurse practice, and pharmacy programs through the University of South Dakota (USD) and South Dakota State University (SDSU) with medical professionals practicing in six rural South Dakota communities. The program has expanded from three sites in 2011 to six in 2012.

Students were selected in a competitive process to participate in REHPS.

- Parkston: Danielle Schroeder, Doctor of Nursing Practice student from Pierre; Megan Bechen, Pharmacy student from Winfred.
- Philip: Tandis Hoffman, Physician Assistant student from Lennox; Kimberly Livingston, Pharmacy student from Yankton.
- Redfield: Miranda Tracy, Medical student from Pierre; Alyssa Osborn, Pharmacy student from Brookings.
- Wagner: Amber Burke, Pharmacy student from Round Lake Park, Ill.; Mikaela Miller, Medical student from Spencer, NE.
- Wessington Springs: Anthony Loewen, Medical student from Huron; Trent Harris, Pharmacy student from Valentine, NE.
- Winner: Tia Haines, Physician Assistant student from White Lake; Justin Cunningham, Pharmacy student from Bloomfield, NE.

In addition to the enriching career experience, students will also be involved in a community project designed to provide interaction with people outside of a clinical setting. The students will call their new communities home for four weeks.

Kassy Youmans, REHPS Program Manager, said the REHPS program provides a framework for community leaders to follow in an effort to successfully recruit and retain healthcare professionals.

"Students are more likely to return to facilities and communities where they have had rich, positive experiences early in their training. The REHPS program is designed to allow communities and students to make this happen," Youmans said.

South Dakota is experiencing a shortage of healthcare workers. The number of high school graduates in the state decreases as the number of retirees is increasing. Between now and 2018, 10 percent of the new jobs in South Dakota will be healthcare related. Fiftynine of South Dakota's 66 counties are designated as medically underserved.



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