

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Hixson Opportunity Awards

1080 Hixson-Lied Student Success Center  
215 Beach Road  
Ames, Iowa 50011-1383  
515 294-6479  
FAX 515 294-7485

October 24, 2023

High School Guidance Office

Maquoketa Valley Senior High School  
PO BOX 186  
107 South St  
Delhi, Iowa 52223

Dear School Counselor:

I am seeking your help in identifying students for the 2024 Hixson Opportunity Awards.

The Hixson Opportunity Award is a \$20,000 scholarship, disbursed over the course of eight semesters. The scholarship was made possible through gifts from Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation Trust and is awarded annually to 100 Iowa students. More than 2,000 Hixson Scholars have graduated from Iowa State University with assistance from this award.

Many scholarships are available to honor the best and brightest students. Often missing from the spotlight are students with the ability and determination but more modest circumstances and means to afford college. Since 1995, the Hixson Awards have recognized Iowa high school students in their quest for a college education. Iowa State's Hixson Program is recognized for "best practice" in achieving high persistence of students with enrollment to graduation programming.

I want to emphasize that we are looking for students with extreme financial need, which must be reflected in their FAFSA. The online Hixson Award application is available at <http://www.hixson.dso.iastate.edu/> and is due **February 1, 2024**. The application includes an electronic request for recommendation. Please share this website with students who may be eligible or colleagues who may identify potential applicants for this award.

If you have any questions regarding the Hixson Opportunity Awards, I can be reached at (515) 294-6479 or [hixson@iastate.edu](mailto:hixson@iastate.edu). Please nominate the next Hixson Scholar from your county.

Sincerely,



Allison Severson  
Director

Enclosures

*"For many of the great, great successes of the world, the background they came from was their great challenge. I'm trying to find those people. Those who may not have the highest grade point or a perfect family background, but who can be successful. These are the ones who will lend the helping hands in the future." ~ Christina Hixson*

*C*HRISTINA  
HIXSON  
OPPORTUNITY  
AWARDS

The Hixson Opportunity Award is a grant of \$20,000 to be used at Iowa State University. One hundred high school seniors from across Iowa will receive the award each year, representing each county in the state. If you are a high school senior who demonstrates potential in ways that go beyond class rankings and test scores, you may wish to apply.

OPPORTUNITY  
*Higher*

[www.hixson.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.hixson.dso.iastate.edu)



### THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY AS A CHRISTINA HIXSON OPPORTUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT

- Students must have faced challenges of personal and/or financial hardship.
- Students must be residents of Iowa.
- Students must possess the potential to succeed.
- Students must demonstrate financial need as determined by filing the FAFSA.
- Students must be admissible to Iowa State University.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) by **February 1**.
- Complete the online application for the Hixson Opportunity Award by **February 1**.
- Complete the Iowa State University admission process by **February 1**.

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