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Gov. Heineman Recognizing 15 High School Seniors for Top ACT and SAT Scores

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman recognized 15 Nebraska high school seniors today for their academic achievement in earning a perfect score of 36 on the ACT or 2400 on the SAT college admissions exam. The two ceremonies were held today at Lincoln East High School and Westside High School in Omaha.

“This is an outstanding accomplishment and I want to congratulate each of these students on their perfect ACT and SAT scores,” Gov. Heineman said. “These seniors have distinguished themselves in the classroom, and I’m confident they will build upon their academic accomplishments in the years ahead.”

The Governor was joined by Matt Blomstedt, Nebraska’s Commissioner of Education, a representative of ACT and a representative of SAT in honoring Nebraska seniors earning the highest possible composite scores on the exams.

As of May, for the high school graduating class of 2014, 15 Nebraska seniors had earned a top score on the ACT and/or SAT.

The top scoring students of the ACT test are: Edward Berry of Elkhorn South High School; Zebulon Cooper of East Butler High School; David Fu, Millard North High School; Ryan Goding of Central High School; Jeremy Goossen of Omaha Christian Academy; Eric Holmberg of Lincoln East High School; Emma Johanningsmeier of Westside High School; Sam Kohler of Lincoln East High School; Matthew Magee of Creighton Preparatory School; Anna Fair Matthes of Lincoln East High School; Anna Meckel of Lincoln; Jennifer Peterson of Duchesne Academy; Akshay Rajagopal of Lincoln East High School; Naomi Samuel of Westside High School; and Jeffrey Wang of Millard North High School.

Anna Meckel of Lincoln received a perfect score on both the ACT and SAT. Akshay Rajagopal was also chosen as a semifinalist in the 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

“The ACT and SAT serve as gateway assessments to college and career readiness and offer students additional insight into their future careers,” said Commissioner Blomstedt. “I commend these students for their dedication and commitment to high achievement.”

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Jon Erickson, President of ACT Education Division, said, “The scores achieved by these outstanding Nebraska seniors are significant and rare. We at ACT offer our congratulations to the students, and we honor the important role played by the teachers, parents, and schools to help these students achieve a top score.”

The ACT consists of four tests scored on a scale of one to 36. Approximately 1.8 million students in the U.S. graduating class of 2013 took the ACT. On average, less than one-tenth of one percent of all students who take the ACT earns a top composite score of 36. A student’s composite score is the average of the four test scores. The average composite score for Nebraska high school graduates in 2013 was a 21.5.

Used by colleges and universities throughout the world as a fair and reliable measure of academic readiness, the SAT measures the skills and knowledge that evidence shows are essential for college and career success. Of the more than 1.66 million students in the class of 2013 who took the SAT, only 494 received the highest possible score (2400), representing 0.03 percent of the total group of test takers.

“On behalf of the College Board, I would like to congratulate Anna and her peers being recognized today on their remarkable achievement,” said Stacy Caldwell, Vice President of the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT. “I also congratulate the parents, teachers and counselors of these exceptional students for supporting and encouraging their success.”

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