

News Release

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Media Contact –Danielle Rush

August 21, 2012

Communications Specialist
2300 S. Washington Street
Kokomo, IN 46904-9003
(765) 455-9414
darush@iuk.edu

New IU Kokomo students awarded scholarships, laptops as part of merit programs

KOKOMO, Ind. — Indiana University Kokomo demonstrated its commitment to academic excellence and making college affordable, awarding nearly \$100,000 in merit scholarships to its top new students.

Winners of the Early Scholars Program scholarships, Pre-Professional Program scholarships, and the Adam W. Herbert Presidential Scholar program received awards valued at \$94,000. Those include scholarship money, laptop computers, overseas travel stipends, and many other benefits.

The campus increased its scholarships by 17 percent from last year, according to Tyana Lange, director of enrollment management. This does not include other forms of financial aid.

“We are excited to have an incoming class with such impressive academic backgrounds,” she said. “I expect great things from these scholarship recipients, and will enjoy watching them graduate in four years, prepared to pursue their next goals.”

Shayla Elmore, Sarah Frey, Rebekah Hochstedler, and Marlee Sumpter received Early Scholars Program scholarships. Cameron Diaz and Jayesh Lalla received pre-professional scholarships. Lyndsay Christensen is the campus’ Adam W. Herbert Presidential Scholar.

Lange said in 2011, the campus gave two of the merit scholarships, so she was especially pleased to have so many students qualify for the awards in 2012.

The Early Scholars Program scholarships, which are \$2,500 per year, are for students in the top 10 percent of their class, who are admitted to IU Kokomo by Nov.

15. They must also earn an academic honors diploma and have a combined writing and critical thinking SAT score of 1150 or higher. It is renewable for those who maintain a 3.3 GPA and earn enough credits to progress to the next class level.

Elmore, from Kokomo, plans to study special education. Frey, from Kokomo, is undecided on her major, but is excited to take graphic design and art classes. Hochstedler, from Amboy, plans to major in communications. Sumpter, from Converse, is pre-med, and chose the campus for its School of Sciences.

The pre-professional scholarships reward excellent academic performance for students who plan to continue to a graduate or professional program, like medical or dental school. It is worth \$2,500 per year, and also includes a stipend for overseas travel, and research and mentoring opportunities with faculty.

Diaz, from Galveston, said he received his notification e-mail late at night, and was so excited he woke his family. He plans to attend medical school after earning his degree at IU Kokomo.

Lalla, from Carmel, chose IU Kokomo because friends on campus recommended it. He looks forward to making new friends. He plans to major in biology and then either go to medical school or a graduate program.

Christensen, Fairmount, received a full-tuition scholarship, stipend for overseas travel and other benefits as IU Kokomo's Herbert Scholar. She plans to study biochemistry before going to medical school.

Lange said high school seniors who are admitted to IU Kokomo for fall 2013 by November 15, 2012, also may qualify for the scholarships. Applications are available at www.iuk.edu.

"We are leveraging our funds to help students as much as possible, especially those who are nearing graduation," she said. "We are communicating with students more about their loan options, and trying to educate them to make sure they don't borrow more than they need. We are increasing our efforts to inform students about outside scholarships too, and encouraging students to apply."

Indiana University Kokomo serves north central Indiana.

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