



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Todd Dvorak | Toddd@strategies360.com | 208.340.6265

Local Young Writers Win IDeal Education Savings Scholarships

(Moscow) – Ten talented, young storytellers from northern Idaho have been awarded seed money by IDeal—Idaho College Savings Program for their educational aspirations this week.

The kids writing contest, which begins in January every year and typically closes in March, was extended this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Saturday, Oct. 24, Idaho Public Television named the winners and awarded these local students with prizes, including a \$100 contribution to their IDeal—Idaho 529 College Savings Program accounts.

Now in its 26th year, the PBS KIDS Writers Contest empowers children in grades K-3 to celebrate creativity and build literacy skills by writing and illustrating their own stories. “This year we had 154 submissions from around Idaho, and the stories were awesome. A few of them made me laugh until I cried,” says Katheryn Astle, IdahoPTV community education specialist. “Some of the writers drew from real-life experiences, others dreamed up imaginative adventures, and they all added wonderful illustrations. The PBS KIDS Writers Contest is a great way for children to engage in polishing their language skills and creativity — abilities that are vital in today’s world.”

This year’s PBS KIDS Writers Contest is sponsored in part by IDeal-Idaho’s College Savings Program. IDeal is Idaho’s 529 plan and is designed to help families plan and save for higher education in a tax-advantaged way. “IDeal is proud to be a part of helping young Idahoans identify their talents and to foster excitement for learning. We hope that their excitement about education, and their college savings accounts, will keep growing for years to come,” said Christine Stoll, IDeal Executive Director.

Some of the local winners included:

Maisie Chamberlin, Coeur d’Alene, Kindergarten

Liberty Hazard, Sandpoint, 1st grade

Cody Uptmor, Nezperce, 1st grade

Lillian Chamberlin, Coeur d’Alene, 2nd grade

Leah Uptmor, Nezperce, 3rd grade

Audree Baldus, Nezperce, 3rd grade

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About IDeal – Idaho College Savings Program

IDeal’s office is located within the State Treasurer’s office. IDeal is administered by the State College Savings Program Board. Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC serves as Program Manager. The State College Savings Board consists of the following members:

- State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth, Board Chair
- Governor Brad Little (Greg Wilson, designee)

- State Controller Brandon Woolf (Patrick Hodges, designee)
- Attorney General Lawrence Wasden (Brian Kane, designee)
- Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra (Louie Konkol, designee)
- Secretary of State Lawrence Denney (Chad Houck, designee)

For more information, contact Christine Stoll at 208-332-2935, cstoll@idsaves.idaho.gov or visit www.idsaves.org.

For more information about the Idaho College Savings Program (“IDeal”), call 866-433-2533 or visit www.idsaves.org to obtain a Disclosure Statement. The Disclosure Statement discusses investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information. Because investing in IDeal is an important decision for you and your family, you should read and consider the Disclosure Statement carefully before investing.

Before you invest, consider whether you’re or the beneficiary’s home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in the that state’s qualified tuition program.

IDeal is administered by the Idaho College Savings Program Board (“Board”). Ascensus Broker Dealer Services, LLC , the program manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory, recordkeeping and administrative services, and marketing. The Vanguard Group, Inc. (“Vanguard”) serves as Investment Manager for IDeal. Sallie Mae Bank serves as the Savings Portfolio Manager for IDeal. IDeal's Portfolios invest in either: (i) mutual funds and a separate account offered or managed by Vanguard; or (ii) an FDIC-insured omnibus savings account held in trust by the Board at Sallie Mae Bank. Except for the Savings Portfolio, investments in IDeal are not insured by the FDIC. Units of the Portfolios are municipal securities and the value of units will vary with market conditions.

Investment returns will vary depending upon the performance of the Portfolios you choose. Except to the extent of FDIC insurance available for the Savings Portfolio, you could lose all or a portion of your money by investing in IDeal, depending on market conditions. Account Owners assume all investment risks as well as responsibility for any federal and state tax consequences.

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