

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Note to Media: High resolution [photo of award recipients](#) available.

Outline: (l-r) Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, Scholarship Recipient Molly Arndt of Iowa City, Scholarship Recipient Sarah Norvell of Ames, and Gov. Terry E. Branstad during the presentation of the 2015 Iowa Scholarship for the Arts awards.

Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds present arts scholarships to 3 Iowa students

Ames, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City students receive award

DES MOINES – Gov. Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds presented the 2015 Iowa Scholarship for the Arts awards to three Iowa high school seniors today during a ceremony at the Capitol Building in Des Moines. The Scholarship for the Arts award is administered by the Iowa Arts Council, a division of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Scholarship for the Arts is awarded annually to select Iowa high school students with a proven artistic ability in dance, literature, music, theater, traditional arts or visual arts who plan to attend an Iowa college or university during the next academic year and pursue a major in the arts. The students recognized today will receive \$1,500 toward his or her 2015-2016 college tuition and related expenses as a full-time undergraduate at a fully accredited Iowa college or university with a major in one or more of the disciplines considered for the award.

“Congratulations to these students who are receiving the Iowa Scholarship for the Arts award today,” Gov. Branstad said. “Their accomplishments are inspiring and it’s a pleasure to recognize the excellence they have achieved as they continue to grow and develop as students and artists.”

“We are so pleased to recognize young Iowans who have displayed exceptional artistic abilities and who plan to continue their education in the arts right here in Iowa,” Lt. Gov. Reynolds said. “Education in the arts stimulates creativity, helps students develop critical-thinking skills, and lays the foundation for those who want to pursue the arts as a career.”

“We are proud to support the talent of young Iowans by investing in their academic career and future in the arts,” DCA Director Mary Cownie said. “We wish them well as they continue their studies right here in Iowa.”

The list of this year’s recipients follows:

Ames

Sarah Norvell
Ames High School
University of Iowa
Creative Writing

Cedar Rapids

Laura Gibson
Home school and Washington High School
Coe College
Instrumental Music Education.

Iowa City

Molly Arndt
Regina Catholic Education Center
University of Iowa
English

The Iowa Scholarship for the Arts was established in 1986 when world-renowned opera singer and native Iowan Simon Estes held a benefit concert in conjunction with the state’s ‘Homecoming 1986’ celebration. The proceeds from that concert provided the seed funding for the Iowa Scholarship for the Arts. Since that time, additional contributions from local organizations and private citizens alike have helped maintain the fund to ensure outstanding young artists continue to be recognized and educated right here in Iowa.

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The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and its three divisions – the Iowa Arts Council, Produce Iowa-State Office of Media Production and the State Historical Society of Iowa – empower Iowa to build and sustain culturally vibrant communities by connecting Iowans to the people, places and points of pride that define our state. The department’s work enables Iowa to be recognized as a state that fosters creativity and serves as a catalyst for innovation where the stories of Iowa are preserved and communicated to connect past, present and future generations. www.culturalaffairs.org.