

Another Advancement In

STEM Education



Iowa State University informing decision-makers about research in **Science–Technology–Engineering–Mathematics Education**

IMSEP scholarships encourage future STEM educators

A little help along the way never hurts. With that in mind, the Iowa State University College of Human Sciences is using funds from the Iowa Math and Science Education Partnership (IMSEP) to provide scholarships to deserving students majoring in math and/or science education.

IMSEP, a program established by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, and the Iowa Legislature, in collaboration with the University of Northern Iowa, University of Iowa, and Iowa State University, has created three goals to better the state of STEM education in Iowa. IMSEP aims to “Improve mathematics and science performance of Iowa students; prepare more high quality mathematics and science teachers for Iowa’s schools; and promote statewide collaboration and cooperation” (www.iowamathscience.org).

Eleven students from the College of Human Sciences received awards, which will be applied in spring 2009. Each \$2,000 scholarship was awarded based on a number of criteria, including good academic standing; commitment toward becoming a math or science educator; and career goals and aspirations once in the classroom.

While this was the first set of IMSEP scholarships awarded, Carla Peterson, associate dean for research and graduate education, said the college plans to make this scholarship available on a biannual basis.

Lindsay Kasuga, a graduate student in curriculum and instruction, is one of the scholarship recipients. Kasuga, who has a bachelor’s degree in biology and a master’s degree in ecology and evolutionary biology, said the



From left, scholarship winners Dan Nguyen, Lauren Hackman, Lindsay Kasuga, Karl Goldsmith, Kyle Weis, Chris Kohlhaas, and Kristen Olsen.

curriculum and instruction program is the perfect way to combine a love for science and a passion for teaching. She will begin student teaching at Lincoln High School in Des Moines in the spring.

“I love teaching and interacting with the students – that’s absolutely the best part,” Kasuga said. “I’m really looking forward to being in the classroom and opening students’ eyes to how diverse the STEM fields are and how they interplay off of each other. I want to inspire them and get them excited about learning in this area.”

For Kasuga, the scholarship not only recognizes her dedication to the field of STEM education, but it alleviates financial pressure, allowing her to focus on teaching.

“We’re here for the students and this award will allow me to put 100 percent of my efforts into designing new curriculum and making their experiences with science even better,” Kasuga said.

For more information:

Visit the College of Human Sciences STEM education web site at www.hs.iastate.edu/news/stem or contact Carla Peterson, associate dean for research and graduate education, phone (515) 294-7804.