



"Building healthy communities by fostering charitable support for the Osceola Medical Center and the health related needs of the people in the upper St. Croix Valley."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$11,750 in Health Care Scholarships awarded by OMC Affiliates

The Partners of Osceola Medical Center and the Osceola Community Health Foundation have awarded \$11,750 in scholarships to area students pursuing education in health-related fields. These scholarship opportunities were established to provide financial assistance to residents of Osceola and surrounding areas.

Through an independent selection process, two students, Kelsey Hendricks of Osceola and James Breitmun of Osceola, received scholarships from two scholarship funds. Sue Gerlach, director of the Osceola Community Health Foundation said that, "The caliber of student applicants continue to impress our selection committees making the process challenging. We are pleased to assist 11 deserving students achieve their goals of working in health care."

The Partners raise funds annually to support two scholarships. Each year their scholarship committee selects one high school and one continuing education recipient. Austin Memmer, Osceola, was awarded the high school scholarship and will pursue a degree in biology at UW-Eau Claire in preparation for a degree in physical therapy. The recipient of the continuing education scholarship, James Breitmun, Osceola, will pursue a degree as an occupation therapy assistant at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

The late Dr. John Simenstad and his wife, Doris, established the John Simenstad Family Scholarship Fund in 1987 to help Osceola area residents pursuing health care careers achieve their academic goals. This year's recipients were: Kelsey Hendricks, Osceola, physician's assistant; Megan Yunker, Dresser, nursing; Shannon Tomfohrde, St. Croix Falls, medicine; James Breitmun, Osceola, occupational therapy assistant; Amanda Angel, Taylors Falls, physiology; Jeffrey Uzpen, Osceola, radiation therapy; Tanya Lundgren, Osceola, health care administration; Rachel Mortel, Osceola, nursing; and Leann Johnson, Osceola, nursing.

The Nancy Smith Scholarship Fund was established in 2003 by the Osceola Community Health Foundation. Donations have been made to this fund in memory of Nancy from her family, friends, and community organizations. This year's recipient is Kelsey Hendricks of Osceola who is pursuing a masters of physician assistant studies at Marquette University.

All scholarships are awarded on an annual basis with applications available on our website www.MyOCHF.com, in February. If you have any questions please contact Sue Gerlach at (715)294-5789 or sue.gerlach@osceolamedicalcenter.com.