



Pierre Educational Foundation

"Partnership in Academic Excellence"

PO Box 94

Pierre, SD 57501

www.pefgovs.org

Phone: (605) 224-9016

Fax: (888)-425-3032

Embargoed until May 7

CONTACT: Jennifer Stalley (605) 224-9016

DATE: May 6, 2021

(Pierre) – The Pierre Educational Foundation hosted its annual Evening of Excellence on Thursday, May 6th at the Ramkota Convention Center.

The Evening of Excellence recognized the top students of the 2021 graduating class as Scholars of Excellence. Each of these students have achieved a 3.75 grade point average or better through their academic career. The winners of the scholarships awarded by the Pierre Educational Foundation were announced at the event. These scholarships went to:

Charles "Lindy" and Shirley Feeney Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Kenzie Gronlund**
Herbert and Irene Emde Family Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Seneca Hertel**
The Pierre Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Emma Lusk**
Shaw Family Scholarship (\$1,500) – **Delaney Engbrecht**
Shaw Family Scholarship (\$1,500) – **Levi McKinley**
Shaw Family Scholarship (\$1,500) – **Paige Pollreisz**
Edith and Richard Warder Scholarship (\$1,000) – **Nolan Rounds**
Mortenson Family Scholarship (\$1,600) – **Taylee Agard**
Spilde Family Scholarship (\$2,500) – *(College/University)* – **Taylee Agard**
Spilde Family Scholarship (\$2,500) – *(Vocational or Technical)* – **Khia White Eyes**
James and Gertrude Mueller Scholarship Fund (\$3,500) – **Emma Lusk**
Schliessmann Family Scholarship (\$4,000) – **Hannah Schochenmaier**

The 2021 BankWest Scholarship winner was also recognized at the event. The winner was Seneca Hertel.

The Evening of Excellence also recognized 29 educators nominated for the BankWest Educator of Excellence. The nominees are selected by the 2021 Scholars of Excellence. Nominations are based on the educator's impact on the education and lives of the students. The winner of the 2021 BankWest Educator of Excellence was Teresa Johnson. Johnson was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the students in the Pierre School District with a \$1,500 award sponsored by BankWest.

The Evening of Excellence included a pre-dinner art display by the students under the direction of Jill Kokesh.

The 2021 Evening of Excellence was sponsored by BankWest, Slumberland Furniture, Cathy Sonnenschein Properties, Dakota Plains Federal Credit Union, Clausen and Rice Incorporated, Dairy Queen, Reinke Gray Wealth Management, Riter Rogers, LLP, Lee Real Estate, Delta Dental of South Dakota, Brittney Schiefelbein Agency – American Family Insurance and Sigrid Wald Swanson Photography.

--##--