

**Go Green!**

Help us save on costs by receiving this newsletter via email. Please send your email address to us at: [kacf@kearneyfoundation.org](mailto:kacf@kearneyfoundation.org)

[www.kearneyfoundation.org](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org) | (308) 237-3114

**IMPORTANT GRANT DEADLINES**



**August 1**

The Building for Tomorrow grant applications are due **August 1**.



**September 30**

The Ted Baldwin Donor Advised fund grant applications are due **September 30**.



**November 1**

The Arthur Klinkacek Community Enrichment fund grant application is due **November 1**. (Please allow time to complete the pre-application, due October 16)

Please review the grant guidelines to make sure your nonprofit organization qualifies to be considered for a grant. Visit [www.kearneyfoundation.org/grants](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org/grants) to view guidelines, apply and find more information.

**2023-2024  
BOARD AND STAFF**

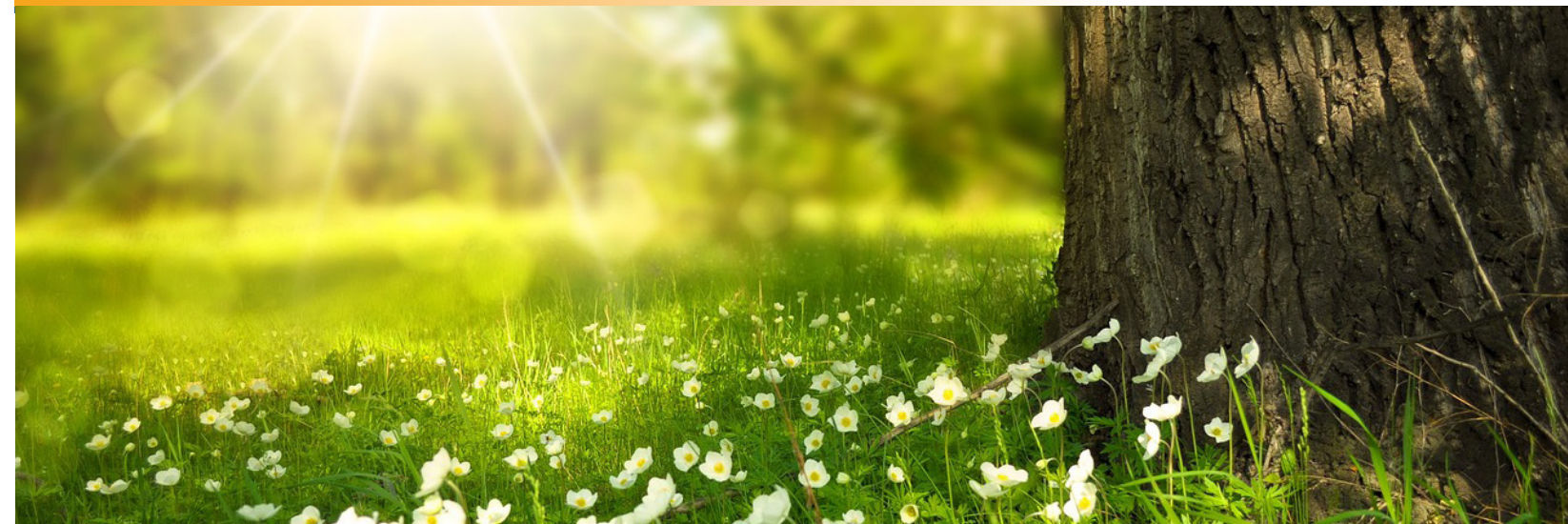
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jonathan Nikkila, *Chair*  
Vickie Schaepler, *Vice Chair*  
Bryan Kuntz, *Secretary*  
Carol Pelster, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Armagost	Dave Oldfather
Brian Bosshamer	Mindy Oman
Jon Brandt	Ron Scott
Brette Ensz	Todd Thalken
Becky Forbes	Matthew Wecker
Brenda Jensen	Ashley Weets
Heidi Narber-Richter	Linda Younes

**STAFF**

Judi Sickler, *President/CEO*  
Angie Vlasin, *Accounting Manager*  
Laurel McKellips, *Program Manager*  
Andi Hartman, *Communications Coordinator*  
Jennifer Beck, *Donor Relations Coordinator*



“connecting people who care with causes that matter”

**Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise  
Scholarship Has Impact**

*How this scholarship has made a difference to one of its first recipients.*

The charitable wishes of a local man are having a big effect on area students, five years later.

In 2018, Arthur Klinkacek gave a gift of more than \$2 million to the Kearney Area Community Foundation from his estate. One of his requests was to establish a scholarship. The Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship was created to aid students in Buffalo County who need financial assistance to pursue a higher education.

The scholarship awards \$10,000 to each recipient, to be paid throughout their college journey. In 2019, the scholarship was awarded to the first group of students who showed promise of success and now those students are receiving their college degrees.

One of those students is Jessica Tamayo. She first learned about the Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship through her counselor and “Pathways to Success” teacher four years ago when she was getting ready to graduate high school. Now she will be graduating from the University of Nebraska-Kearney (UNK) this December, with a degree in Organizational Relational Communication. “After I graduate, I am hoping to find the perfect job where I can use both my Communications major as well as my Supply Chain Management minor,” Tamayo says.



“The day I found out I was a recipient of the Klinkacek Scholarship, I knew it was going to have a positive impact on my college career and future,” says Tamayo. “It has helped me focus on school and not have to worry about working to pay off any college debts.” That focus on school has paid off, as Tamayo made the dean’s list at UNK this past semester.

“[This scholarship] has helped me have a better future for myself and become the first person in my family to graduate college. I am beyond grateful for this opportunity that [Arthur] Klinkacek has given me. I hope I can give back and help others like [Arthur] Klinkacek has helped me,” Tamayo says.

She says she hopes other students in the area look for opportunities, like the Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship, when continuing their education. “I encourage any student to apply for as many scholarships as possible, as it can make a huge impact on your college career/future. Applying for the Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship was one of the best decisions I made as a senior in high school. You never know the opportunities you’ll get until you look and work for them.”

# Investing in Our Students

Local Students Get a Boost Toward Higher Education

## Their Pursuit of Higher Education

Scholarships are the building blocks for future generations, providing the financial assistance for local students to fulfill their dreams of higher education.

Kristen Holcomb received the Carla J. Middleswart Memorial Scholarship. This is a new scholarship this year for students who have served in the military or have a family member who has served. Holcomb will be attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in the fall. She will be majoring in secondary education and minoring in psychology. Holcomb says after college she wants to find a job and to become involved in a community she loves so she can make an impact on others. "The Carla J. Middleswart scholarship is a huge blessing to me as I am responsible for financing my own education," Holcomb says. "It will allow me to become more involved in college because I will not have to work as many hours. I am so excited at the opportunity I was given to attend my dream college, UNL, and set myself up for success!"



**Kristen Holcomb**  
Gibbon  
High School

Andy Nguyen received the McKenna's Rae of Hope Character Scholarship. Recipients of this scholarship are nominated by members of their community that they believe to be living their life as a "Rae of HOPE"-Helping Other People Everyday. Nguyen will be attending the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in the fall. He will be a science major, in either biology or nutrition science. But his plans for higher education don't stop there. "Once I am done with college, I hope to gain a strong medical-science foundation to further my specialized studies toward being a Physician's Assistant (PA)," Nguyen says. "I will apply for PA school and hopefully get accepted!"



**Andy Nguyen**  
Kearney  
High School

Alivia Olson received the Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship. Olson will be studying chemical engineering at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in the fall. She says she applied for the Youth Leadership Kearney (YLK) Scholarship because of the impact YLK has had on her. She says YLK exposed her to a variety of careers and instilled in her a sense of gratitude for the Kearney community. "I am incredibly thankful to have been awarded this scholarship," Olson says. "It is a very busy time in my life, so every dollar I have received has made the transition to college much easier on me and my family. The support I have received from the Kearney community over these past 18 years is incredible, and as I continue my life, I plan to pay it forward!"



**Alivia Olson**  
Kearney  
High School

These scholarships, through the Kearney Area Community Foundation, (KACF) are established by generous donors, businesses, and organizations, like you, focused on assisting students in their pursuit of higher education.

A scholarship fund, through KACF, connects local donors with local youth to help them achieve their educational goals. Scholarships can be awarded based on the student's accomplishments, or financial needs, reflecting the scholarship donor's belief in the impact an education can have in helping students attain their dreams.

Are you a local dream maker? Are you interested in creating a scholarship fund and investing in our community's youth? The Kearney Area Community Foundation is here to help! Establishing an endowed scholarship fund with KACF is an effective way to meet your charitable objectives as a local dreamer.

Scholarship funds may vary in size and complexity, but one thing is in common throughout all funds: the charitable spirit and dedication to the education of local youth. Give Judi Sickler a call at (308) 237-3114 if this is something you value.

# Leaving a Legacy

Make an Impact with Planned Gifts

## Estate Planning Lets You Make a Difference in Your Community

Supporting causes that are important to you is a great way to make a difference in your community. But what if you could go beyond that? Consider creating a legacy through the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) that will have a local impact beyond your lifetime.



Planned gifts are an excellent way to cement your legacy in your community and enjoy tax benefits as well. But with all of the different types of planned gifts, how do you know which one is best for you? Here are just a few types of planned gifts you can consider that will help you make a difference:

- **Bequests:** These are probably what a lot of people think of when they think about planned giving. Bequests are the charitable gifts that you designate in your will. They can be listed as a specific dollar amount, or as a percentage of your estate.
- **Charitable Gift Annuities:** Charitable gift annuities are almost like a payment plan for yourself. You make a sizeable gift to a nonprofit like KACF and in return you receive a fixed payment for the rest of your life. You also receive a significant tax deduction when you set up the gift annuity. This contract benefits KACF as any leftover money after your passing goes to our nonprofit.
- **Gift of Life Insurance:** Gifts from a life insurance policy are a simple way for you to give a significant gift to charity, with tax benefits that you can enjoy during your lifetime. You can make a gift from an existing life insurance policy, or you can purchase a new policy and list the nonprofit you are passionate about as the owner and beneficiary.

Setting up a planned gift can seem like a pretty daunting task, but the Kearney Area Community Foundation (KACF) is here to help. KACF staff can help you decide what kind of planned gift is best for you, and what causes in the community you want to support with your gift. To find out more about making a planned gift, contact Judi at (308) 237-3114 or at [judi@kearneyfoundation.org](mailto:judi@kearneyfoundation.org).

# Supporting an Important Mission

Ways to Strengthen Your Community

## The Edison Society: A Lightbulb Moment

Hello friends of the Kearney Area Community Foundation! Four years ago, the Foundation made the bold decision to do away with our much-loved fundraiser, the Wine and Jazz Festival. The Wine and Jazz Festival was a ton of fun and created some great visibility and brand awareness for the Foundation, but at the end of the day it was a ton of work and, quite frankly, didn't do a great job of delivering on the fundraising part of the equation. We knew it was time to try a different approach.

We wanted to give our donors an opportunity to really make a difference and see how their dollars were making an impact. To that end, The Edison Society was created. The Edison Society is a special group of donors that support the work of Kearney Area Community Foundation at a higher level. Donations to the Edison Society are used to directly support the administration of programs like Give Where You Live, where over \$9.6 million dollars have been raised for 185 different local non-profits. Donations to the Edison Society also have helped fund the software platform that powers our scholarship application and selection process for hundreds of local students. Thus far, the support for the Edison Society has been strong and I believe we are just getting started!



**Bryan Kuntz**  
KACF Board Member,  
President at  
Intelllicom



Even with the early success of the Edison Society, we realize some of the terminology we use at the Foundation can be confusing. I thought I would take a moment to clarify a couple of the different avenues available in which to give.

- **Edison Society:** For donors who want to see the effect of their gift directly realized in programs for the community. Give Where You Live is great example of this. Donation options range from \$1000 - \$5000+
- **Stakeholders:** For givers who want to support the mission of the Kearney Area Community Foundation but are OK with dollars being spent in the area of greatest need. These donations typically go to day-to-day operations and are not directed at programs. Donation options range from \$50 - \$999
- **Give Where You Live:** Our annual day of giving where over \$1 million dollars is typically raised for 185 different local nonprofits! Dollars typically aren't raised directly for The Kearney Area Community Foundation this day, as we prefer to keep the focus on our great nonprofit partners!

In closing, we are very fortunate to live in a part of Nebraska that is filled with so many generous folks. A common theme that I hear when I visit with donors is often around their fond memories about the quality of life they have experienced while living in the Kearney area. Programs, like the ones listed above, can help ensure that quality of life can be found in Kearney for generations to come. Thank you for all of your support!

# Congratulations!

# 2023



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Arthur E. Klinkacek Promise Scholarship** awards four scholarships to Buffalo County students with financial need.

**Recipients:** Kiersten Bennett, Chelsea Cuellar, Heiry Hernandez Casas and Thomas Psota

**Asher Family Scholarship** awards three scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School.

**Recipients:** Claire Coulter, Zachary Lewandowski, Tori Sklenar

**Aubree Joy Hubbard Memorial**

**Scholarship** awards one scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School.

**Recipient:** Rylee Gutzwiller

**Betty Zwiener Rodehorst Memorial**

**Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School.

**Recipient:** Baylee Rollison

**Blanche Thompson Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School, who will be a first-year college student.

**Recipient:** McKenna Krueger

**Carla J. Middleswart Memorial**

**Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Buffalo County student, who has served in the military or has a family member who has served.

**Recipient:** Kristen Holcomb

**Carol Cope Alpha Xi Delta Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a UNK student who is a member of Alpha Xi Delta National Women's Fraternity.

**Recipient:** Zoie Jacobsen

**C.D. Orr and Emily Orr Scholarship**

awards a four-year scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

**Recipient:** Trinity Neal

**Charles and Jeanette Mumma**

**Scholarship**

awards four scholarships to seniors active in the Buffalo County 4-H program.

**Recipients:** Creyton Line, Sadie Ringlein, Katherine Stephens and Skyler Summers

**Charles and Verna Lee Falk Scholarship**

awards two scholarships for seniors of Wilcox-Hildreth High School, with a preference to those pursuing degrees in healthcare or agriculture.

**Recipients:** Nathan Braddy and Claire Ortgiesen

**City of Oshkosh Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a Garden County High School Senior.

**Recipient:** Emily Levick

**C.J. Williams and Lena A. Williams Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Garden County High School senior.

**Recipient:** Trinity Neal

**Class of 1948 Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School, enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college, university or technical school.

**Recipient:** Samantha Bursaw

**Colene Pfeiffer Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference given to those majoring in education.

**Recipient:** Shyann Hollingsworth

**Don Newth Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School, who will be a first-year college student.

**Recipient:** Logan Rethwisch

**Donald Kaup Memorial Knights of**

**Columbus Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior residing in Holt or Rock County.

**Recipient:** Tyler Jelinek

**Dr. A.A. Jaeke Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School who is enrolled full-time with preference to those pursuing a degree in the medical field.

**Recipient:** Alia Gomez

**Dwight and Lois Gangwish Scholarship**

awards four scholarships to current, and past graduates of Shelton High School.

**Recipients:** Kiersten Bennett, Alia Gomez, Mayte Meza Martinez and Dru Niemack

**Elm Creek Public School Foundation**

**Clara Marshall Scholarship** awards four scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

**Recipients:** Rylee Gutzwiller, Denise Hunt, Anjolina Purdy and Luke Warner

**Elm Creek School Foundation**

**Scholarship** awards four scholarships to seniors of Elm Creek High School.

**Recipients:** Rylee Gutzwiller, Denise Hunt, Anjolina Purdy and Luke Warner

**Faye Wendt Memorial Scholarship**

awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with preference to those who attend UNK, majoring in education.

**Recipient:** Shyann Hollingsworth

**Ferol G. Carney and Patricia A. Carney Memorial Scholarship** awards a

multi-year scholarship to a senior of Garden County.

**Recipient:** Aubrey Evans

Today, the Kearney Area Community Foundation manages **60 scholarship funds**. We have awarded **115 scholarships** equaling more than **\$188,820 in 2023** to local students enrolled in a technical college, community college and/or university. This year, we worked with **79 scholarship recipients**.



**70 recipients used** the Kearney Area Community Foundation's new online universal scholarship application



**95% of scholarships were** awarded to students pursuing higher education in Nebraska



**37% of scholarships were** awarded to those with majors in the medical field



**7% of scholarships were** awarded to those going into the trades

Want to apply next year? Visit [www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.kearneyfoundation.org/scholarships) (Keep checking back as applications begin to reopen for the 2024 season.)

**Ft. Kearny Conference Future Educator Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from a Ft. Kearny Conference high school pursuing a degree in education from UNK.

**Recipient:** Whitney Dickau

**Garden County High School Alumni Scholarship** awards two scholarships to seniors of Garden County High School.

**Recipients:** Aubrey Evans and Taylor Fornander

**Holy Cross Lutheran Mitchell Scholarship** provides financial assistance to Holy Cross Lutheran church members.

**Recipients:** Ava Boldt, Matthew Dahlke, Nolan Dart, William Fiddelke, Quinten Hogeland, Lauren Kohtz, Nathan Mauslein, Brenda Noyes, Regan Potter, Sydney Rohwer, Quinten Shaffer, Noah Torres, Karson Walters and Luke Warner

**Jane S. and Franklin V. Bernhard Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School senior.

**Recipient:** William Roe

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Ag Commitment Scholarship** awards two scholarships to graduating high school students from a Buffalo or Kearney County high school pursuing a degree in agriculture.

**Recipients:** Megan Kindschuh and Creyton Line

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Bruce Blankenship Leadership in Business Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a student pursuing a degree in the field of business.

**Recipient:** Jose Lopez Ramirez

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Friends of Law Enforcement Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a student from Buffalo County pursuing a degree in law enforcement or a similar field.

**Recipient:** Arielle Lawrence

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Mark Benjamin Building Opportunity Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a student in Buffalo or Kearney County pursuing a degree in the construction trades field of study.

**Recipient:** Ethan Kowalek

**Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce Student Leader Scholarship** awards two scholarships to seniors from a Buffalo County high school who are enrolled full-time at CCC or UNK.

**Recipients:** CeCe Berggren (CCC) and Heiry Hernandez Casas (UNK)

**Kenneth L. Erickson FFA Scholarship** awards two scholarships to Ravenna High School seniors involved in FFA.

**Recipients:** Claire Coulter and Thomas Psota

**Kurt Keaschall Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton and Ravenna High School with preference given to those attending a two-year technical school.

**Recipients:** Baylee Rollison (Pleasanton) and Kaia Johnson (Ravenna)

**Lance Corporal Kyle Codner Memorial Scholarship** awards two scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School with financial need.

**Recipients:** Alia Gomez and Dru Niemack

**LeRoy and Joyce Hongsemeier Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Ravenna High School senior pursuing a degree in an agriculture related field.

**Recipient:** Gavin Standage

**Lynn Rosenlof Hoelting Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to an outstanding female athlete, student and leader of Kearney High School through a nomination process.

**Recipient:** Alivia Olson

**Mary E. Hehnke Educational Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a female senior of Garden County pursuing a degree in education.

**Recipient:** Taylor Fornander

**McKenna's Rae of Hope Character Scholarship** is a character-based scholarship where candidates are identified through a nomination process.

**Recipients:** David Lozano, Alexis Montecuolo, Andy Nguyen and Abby Tarr

**McKenna's Rae of Hope Mental Health Field Scholarship** award two scholarships to a high school senior, college student, or graduate in a mental health program.

**Recipients:** Juana Perez and Chiana Tubbs

**Oren and Joyce Vogt Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Angel Cruz Velez

**Path to Success Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Buffalo County with financial need studying trades.

**Recipient:** Chelsea Cuellar

**Pauline Fulton Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a graduate of a Nebraska high school who has been accepted into the nursing program at UNMC - Kearney division.

**Recipient:** Kari Struebing

**Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship** awards three scholarships to seniors of Pleasanton High School who have participated in community activities.

**Recipients:** Shyann Hollingsworth, Baylee Rollison and Regan Weisdorfer

**Pleasanton Career Builders Scholarship in honor of Bob Bednar** awards a scholarship to a Pleasanton High School senior.

**Recipient:** CeCe Berggren

**Pleasanton High School Alumni Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Pleasanton High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Regan Weisdorfer

**Ravenna Public School Foundation Scholarship** awards two scholarships to current, graduating seniors of Ravenna High School who are enrolled full-time in a Nebraska college or technical school.

**Recipients:** Morgyn Fiddelke and Zachary Lewandowski

**Richard Dunn Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Garden County High School.

**Recipient:** Jeanson Spady

**Robin and Judy Marshall Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Elm Creek High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Denise Hunt

**Ronald and Jaquelyn Kegley 4-H Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior graduating in Buffalo County and involved in 4-H activities.

**Recipient:** Rylee Bentz

**Roy and Doris Abood Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a first-generation college student enrolled at UNK.

**Recipient:** Devin Peterson

**Shawn Reiber Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a current, graduating senior in Buffalo County.

**Recipient:** Dru Niemack

**Shelton FFA Boosters Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Shelton High School who participated in FFA (Future Farmers of America).

**Recipients:** Emmilly Berglund, Halie Clark, Madison Goldfish, Jett Johnson, William Roe, Samuel Stewart, Skyler Summers and MaKenna Willis

**Shelton "Paying it Forward" Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a Shelton High School Senior with preference given to those pursuing a degree in STEM subjects.

**Recipient:** Alia Gomez

**S.T.A.N.D Scholarship** (Shelton Teens Against Negative Decisions) awards scholarships to current, graduating seniors of Shelton High School.

**Recipients:** Quinn Cheney and Madison Goldfish

**Ted Headley Ag Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Shelton High School pursuing a degree in agriculture.

**Recipient:** Samuel Stewart

**Troy and Kay Bauer Scholarship** awards a scholarship to an Amherst High School senior who plans to major in the agricultural or medical field.

**Recipient:** Luke Palmer

**Vanity Fare Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Paxton Consolidated Schools.

**Recipient:** Isaiah Fox

**Vernon and Beverly Reinertson Scholarship** awards scholarships to seniors of Ravenna High School pursuing a degree in a 2-year or 4-year program.

**Recipients:** Lexsis Adams and Kennedy Hurt

**Violet Wadzinski Memorial Scholarship** awards a scholarship to a senior of Ravenna High School with financial need.

**Recipient:** Samantha Bursaw

**Youth Leadership Kearney Scholarship** awards scholarships for high school seniors who graduated from the Youth Leadership Kearney program and are attending college in Nebraska.

**Recipients:** Kamryn David, Alivia Olson and Karson Walters