



All high schools in the Iowa and Illinois counties served by the Quad-City Times were invited to nominate graduating seniors for Salute to Academics & Achievements recognition.

Students were selected for each category by their schools. Information was submitted by

high school counselors. Students also were asked to write short essays about the changes they expect to see in the world in the next 10 years.

Nominees are being saluted on special pages in the Q-C Area section.

Eastland High School

EASTLAND High School, Lanark, Ill., has selected these outstanding students from its class of 66 students:

Academics

HAYLEE ENDRESS, daughter of James and Deborah Endress of Shannon, plans to major in animal science/pre-veterinary medicine at Highland Community College, Freeport, Ill.

Top achievements:
■ Illinois State Scholar
■ Ranked 1st in class
■ National Honor Society
“Imagine not having to be in the driver’s seat of a car. In 10 years I think cars will drive themselves using GPS to navigate and water for fuel. These cars will get you where you want to go faster, easier, and more eco-friendly than ever before.”

The Arts

BEKKA FOUST, daughter of Bonnie and Bill Foust of Shannon, plans to major in fine arts at Highland Community College, Freeport, Ill.

Top achievements:
■ National Honor Society treasurer
■ 335 Club
■ State Speech finalist
“In the year 2019, I expect to see a real advancement in how we create and use energy. I hope that there are more efficient cars that do not need gasoline to operate. I



Haylee Endress



Rebecca Foust



J. Albertson



Damaris Linker



Aaron Byers



Matthew Miller



August Cassens

CLASS OF 2009

J. Albertson, Sarah Anderson, Andre Anhalt, Nichole Bennett, Jace Blair, Melissa Bury, Aaron Byers, Drew Carroll, August Cassens, Clayton Coleman, Jerime Coombes, Benjamin Delp, Dustin Downs, Ashley Duitsman, Haylee Endress, Cameron Eubanks, Rebecca Foust, Courtney Frederick, Courtney Gilman, Cassandra Green, Justin

Grisham, Kelsey Gruhn, Ryan Gruhn, Abigale Hare, Lawrence Hasken, Nelson Hatheway, Kyle Heeren, Jack Hoak, Robert Hoffman, Ashley Jacobs, Charles Johnson, Jessica Johnson, Meagan Judd, Marie Kornfeind, Holly Koser, Thomas Labellarte, Madeline Landherr, Kendall Law, Lane Lessman, Blayne Lillge, Damaris Linker, Raymond Lynch, Matthew Miller, Morgan

Monigold, Amanda Murphy, Joseph Myers, Nicole Plock, Kane Raab, Katie Raab Nathan Randecker, Andrew Remrey, Ethan Riley, Michael Rose, Jordon Ruter, Kathryn Schipkowski, Zejna Seferi, Alexander Smith, Jessica Snyder, Sarah Sundquist, Tate Tigges, Taylor Truckenmiller, Carson Walker, Kristie Whetsel, Wallace Williams, Mark Ziller and Tyler Zumdahl.

would also like to see solar power as our main energy source.”

Humanities

J. ALBERTSON, son of Tami and Dan Albertson of Lanark, plans to major in business administration at Aurora (Ill.) University.

Top achievements:
■ 3.75 Club
■ 6 college credits and 4.0 GPA
■ Varsity Scholastic Bowl captain
“I will be working as upper-level management in an evolving business. People will live in completely eco-friendly households and use mass transit. Metropolitan areas will continue to expand

as fewer people live in rural America. Internet will replace our mail systems, and people will have less physical interaction.”

Leadership

DAMARIS LINKER, daughter of Douglas and Jeanette Linker of Lanark, plans to major in business at Quincy (Ill.) University.

Top achievements:
■ Top 10 percent
■ High Honor Roll
■ 3.75 Club
“An exciting change I see happening in the next 10 years would be a drastic move away from fossil fuels toward the use of green energy. Clean energy sources such as wind,

solar and geo-thermal will benefit the environment we live in and greatly improve our quality of life.”

Math/The Sciences

AARON BYERS, son of Phillip and Linda Byers of Shannon, plans to major in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Top achievements:
■ 3.75 Club
“In 10 years, all of our computers and cell phones will work at a speed unimaginable from what we know now. Cell phones will serve as the ultimate media player, and information will always be at our fingertips.”

Vocational Education

MATT MILLER, son of Bill and Deb Miller of Shannon, plans to major in soil and crop science at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

Top achievements:
■ Top Cat, Ag Class
■ 3.0 Club
■ Golden Tool Award, outstanding performance in ag mechanics
“I believe that the younger generation will have to work harder for their money in the future. People will have to find jobs that will be long-lasting in today’s economy. Everything will be more efficient, but we will have to pay more to get what we need.”

Young Journalist

AUGUST CASSENS, daughter of Gerald and Diann Cassens of Lanark, plans to major in English with an emphasis on publishing at Illinois State University, Normal

Top achievements:
■ Illinois State Scholar
■ National Honor Society
■ Ranked 2nd in class
“Ten years from now, I expect to see major advances in communication, where snail mail is obsolete, and high-tech cell phones and computers are used by everyone in the world. Global warming will be a conquered problem, and a more peaceful planet will be enjoyed by all.”

Erie High School

ERIE (Ill.) High School has selected the these outstanding seniors from its class of 54 students:

Academics

VERONICA STOUT, daughter of Jeremy and Jessica Johnson of Erie, plans to major in nuclear medical technology at Benedictine University, Lisle, Ill.

Top achievements:
■ Top of class
■ High Honor Roll
■ National Honor Society
“Since I’ve started school, fashion has changed from big hair and side ponytails to sleek hair with side bangs. Gas prices have changed; now that I’m driving and paying for my own gas, that’s something I definitely notice! In kindergarten, everyone was everyone’s friend. Now we have our specific groups. I think people and their attitudes change over time for the worse in this sense. I don’t think that will change in 10 years. However, I expect the ’80s style to come back full swing and the gas price to continually change.”

The Arts

ASHLEY HEPPNER, daughter of Mark and Jody Heppner of Erie, plans to major in Spanish and business at Augustana College, Rock Island, or Drake University, Des Moines.

Top achievements:
■ High Honor Roll



Veronica Stout



Ashley Heppner



Brittany Schmidt



Joe Bright



Kylie Melton-Miner



Matthew Swanson



Carissa Saad

CLASS OF 2009

Claire Black, Joe Bright, Tyler Brooks, Brandon Butler, Samantha Carr, James Collin III, Dakota Dillin, Nathan Doyle, Ethan Ellis, Jordan Garrison, Shawn Goodhart, Zachary Graham, John Green, Ben Havens, Austin Hayes, Ashley Heppner, Bradley Howard, Brandon Howard,

Sarah Howard, Cassaundra Huizenga, Lee Huizenga, Taylor Jackson, Lukas Jepson, Beau Kirkpatrick, Franziska Kriesel, Kristopher Lambert, Mathew Maxwell, Samuel Melton, Lucas Merryman, Kylie Miner, Kortney Minge, Amanda Monkus, Kayla Ouderkerk, Michael Paxton, Matthew Pyse, Britney Reynolds,

Kyle Ryan, Carissa Saad, John Sasko, Brittany Schmidt, Zach Smith, Sydney Stewart, Veronica Stout, Ashley Stropes, Mathew Swanson, Martin Temple, Mathew Temple, Halie Tiemann, Ashley Voeltz, Austin Weaver, Steven Williams, Bastain Winkelhake, Jacob Woodhurst and Devan Worthington.

■ Top of class, sophomore year
■ Placing in National Spanish Exam

“The world will always continue to change. Ten years from now, I hope the economy is better. I hope there are more medical advancements and people gain more respect for each other. It would also be nice to find more renewable energy sources.”

Humanities

BRITTANY SCHMIDT, daughter of Dean and Kim Schmidt of Erie, plans to major in elementary education at Lincoln (Ill.) Christian College.

Top achievements:
■ Honor Roll
■ National Honor Society
■ Best All-Around Story, selected by my peers sophomore year

“Ten years from now, the world will change twice the amount as it has changed since I started school. I expect we will see further advances in technology, and come up with more alternatives to produce energy. We will also see many more historical events marked in our history books.”

Leadership

JOE BRIGHT, son of Susan Bright and Gary and Ella Bright of Erie, plans to major in political science/economics at Augustana College, Rock Island.

Top achievements:
■ Illinois State Scholar
■ High Honor Roll
■ Ranked in top 5 of class
“I expect the world to be a much closer community. Hopefully the current global problems

will draw us together and unite us for the common good of our people.”

Math/The Sciences

KYLIE MELTON-MINER, daughter of Scott and Leslie Miner of Erie, plans to major in chemistry (biochemistry emphasis) at Millikin University, Decatur, Ill.

Top achievements:
■ Selected for Millikin honors program
■ Illinois State Scholar
■ National Spanish Exam
“The world has come a distance since my days of playgrounds and nap time. For certain, in the next ten years there will be an infinite number of changes yet to come. Being a woman of science, I can hardly begin dreaming of the

improvements and discoveries that may be unearthed.”

Vocational Education

MATTHEW SWANSON, son of Ted and Sonja Swanson of Albany, plans to major in business management and marketing at Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa.

Top achievements:
■ Illinois State Scholar
■ High Honor Roll
■ Academic Bowl Team captain
“In 10 years, I can see a lot of little schools combining together into bigger, county ide school districts. A lot of schools have started combing now, and I believe that schools in our area will become major power houses in all fields of sports.”

Young Journalist

CARISSA SAAD, daughter of Mel and Cindy Saad of Erie, plans to major in nursing at Black Hawk College, Moline.

Top achievements:
■ National Honor Society
■ High Honor Roll
■ DAR Award
“My major is nursing. Changes will happen all the time. Technology never stops changing; it will always progress. I think since nursing deals with technology, nurses will have to take classes every year. It will be difficult to stay with. We’ll be surprised with what they come up with next.”