



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.

# Bellevue High School

**BELLEVUE** (Iowa) High School has selected these outstanding seniors from its class of 56 students:

## Academics

**MOLLIE KNAKE**, daughter of Mike and Kathy Knake of Bellevue, plans to major in biomedical engineering at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ IBCA Academic All-State, basketball  
 ■ IGCA Academic All-State, basketball

■ National Honor Society  
 "I think technological advances will continue to shape our world even more."

## The Arts

**LAURA THOMS**, daughter of Jon and Peggy Thoms of Bellevue, plans to major in music performance at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ National Honor Society  
 ■ Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Clinton Community College

■ Outstanding Performance Award, solo/ensemble music contest

"Ten years from now, I expect the most change in technology. Education will be more technology-based, making resources more attainable to younger students. Products used in everyday life will be more energy-efficient and sustainable. Also, I hope to see more cultural diversity and acceptance of individual differences."



**Mollie Knake**

**Laura Thoms**

**Ashley Beckley**

**Alex Iosbaker**

**Ronald Schroeder**

**Dylan Meek**

**Erika Friberg**

## CLASS OF 2012

Emily Anderson, Ashley Beckley, Kaleb Bee, Danah Berthel, Brandon Blake, Joshua Blake, Daniel Brown, Breanna Carson, Travis Carton, Jalen Chambers, Victoria Clasen, Cole Claussen, Cody Connolly, Chance Deppe, Dustin Ernst, Clair Fahey, Kaitlyn Feltes, Alexis Fondell, Erika Friberg, Bryce Green, Anthony Griebel, Shalene Hagerly, Sarah Hammond, Anna Hankemeier,

Travis Heiar, Jesse Hingten, Alex Iosbaker, John Jacobs, Natalie Kalmes, Taysia Kaune, Tracy Kaune, Peyton Kilburg, Mollie Knake, Dylan Lundin, Nickolas McMahon, Dylan Meek, Keith Messner, Cody Naeve, Amber Nemmers, Tiara Oliver, Lori Olson, Zachary Pitts, Britany Reeg, Keisha Schroeder, Ronald Schroeder, Alex Sieverding, Kortni Sieverding, Tanner Simon, Moriah Slaught, Katelyn Steines, Morgan Stephany, Laura Thoms, Austin Traman, Melanie Wieser, Kamron Wilson and Nicole Yeager.

## Humanities

**ASHLEY BECKLEY**, daughter of DeWayne and Carla Beckley of Maquoketa, plans to major in biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ National Honor Society  
 ■ Honor Roll  
 ■ Academic Letter

"In the next 10 years, I expect to see the world become even more technologically advanced across the board and more conscious of the repercussions of our actions. I would like to see people take responsibility for their actions and change the inevitable fate the world has right now. Once people

take responsibility, pollution and the debt America faces will decrease."

## Leadership

**ALEX IOSBAKER**, son of Bill and Chris Iosbaker of Bellevue, plans to major in athletic training at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Honor Roll

■ Big East Conference All-Academic

■ Outstanding Solo Performance solo  
 "Ten years from now, I believe, technology will be the main aspect of every person's job and life. It will bring the world closer together. My only concern

is that if computers in classrooms become the main source of learning, the personal connection between the student and teacher may be lost."

## Math/The Sciences

**RONALD SCHROEDER**, son of Dennis and Jeanette Schroeder of Bellevue, plans to major in engineering at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ National Honor Society  
 ■ Academic Letter

■ Top 10 percent of class  
 "Everything will be extremely energy efficient. Technology would be play a great amount in our daily lives like school and work."

## Vocational Education

**DYLAN MEEK**, son of Phillip and Tracy Meek of Bellevue, plans to study nuclear engineering by enlisting in the U.S. Navy.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Iowa FBLA vice-president  
 ■ Being accepted into the Naval nuclear power program  
 ■ 1st place, spreadsheet applications, state FBLA conference

"I expect to see high school students being required to take computer classes. This is so students may learn basic and more in-depth functions of computers: Internet, applications, communications. This is an important aspect of high school that should be required because technology is growing rapidly."

## Young Journalist

**ERIKA FRIEBERG**, daughter of Frank and Cherie Friberg of Bellevue, plans to major in Spanish at Central College, Pella, Iowa.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ ACT composite score of 30  
 ■ Top 10 percent of class

■ National Honor Society  
 "Our world is rapidly changing. We are becoming incredibly dependent on technology, and soon that will be inevitable. As our world becomes more technologically advanced, we will, and are, slowly losing our individuality and creativity."

# West Branch High School

**WEST BRANCH** (Iowa) High School has selected these outstanding seniors from its class of 55 students:

## Academics

**KARA DIEMER**, daughter of Christa and Curt Diemer of West Branch, plans to major in pre-physical therapy at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Governor's Scholar Award  
 ■ National Honor Society vice-president  
 ■ 4.0 GPA

"With technology changing at an amazing rate, the world's people will become even more closely linked. I hope this will prompt advances in health care and humanitarian efforts around the globe."

## The Arts

**BRIANNA DEJONG**, daughter of Darian and Renee DeJong of Iowa City, plans to major in vocal education at Coe College, Cedar Rapids.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Ranked 1st in class  
 ■ 4.0 GPA

"I believe in 10 years, the world will change dramatically toward a more green and efficient planet with an even stronger focus on the future generations. Technology will continue to skyrocket, science will continue to unravel more mysteries, and intelligence will widen its perimeters."



**Kara Diemer**

**Brianna DeJong**

**Elijah Elliott**

**Austin Finnegan**

**Mariah Elliott**

**Danielle Wolf**

**Annie Whiteside**

## CLASS OF 2012

Devin Aicher-Bain, Noah Anderson, Jenny Blaaid, Cody Bowers, Blake Bradley, Jessica Van Dyke Butler, Jacob Campbell, Cassie Colvin, Kylar Davis, Brianna DeJong, Kara Diemer, Braden Dilhy, Patrick Donovan, Jackie Ehls, Elijah Elliott, Mariah Elliott, Austin Finnegan, Kiah Hall, Michael Hart, Gregory Hays, Tanner Hayslett, Mitchell Hesselstine, Daniel Isabel, Ryan Kirkey, Samantha Knoop,

Zachary Knoop, Alexis Knox Baylor, Kristin Koppes, Gabriella Lindley, Jesse Lumpa, Christopher Meeks, Derrick Miller, Katelyn Moore, Stephanie Murphy, Hannah O'Hara, Conor Paulsen, Jennifer Pohlman, Corey Ringle, McKenna Sexton, Shana Skay, Jake Slocum, Matthew Sorensen, Kaylyn Tadlock, Sidney Thompson, Jamie Tucker, Maxwell Villhauer, Cody Walker, Sean Wasion, Kendra Webb, Jacob White, Annie Whiteside, Zachary Williams, Danielle Wolf, Micheala Wolfram and Brandon Young.

## Humanities

**ELIJAH ELLIOTT**, son of Barb and Andy Elliott of Atalissa, plans to attend St. Ambrose University, Davenport.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Accepted to St. Ambrose University

■ 3.5 GPA  
 ■ Honor Roll

"I expect to see the technology in the world increase immensely as well as our social structure and how we communicate. Our communication is changing dramatically as it is right now, let alone in the next 10 years. I expect we will have to take many precautions environmentally as well in order to help the many generations to come."

## Leadership

**AUSTIN FINNEGAN**, son of Jeanie Finnegan and Robert Finnegan of West Branch, plans to major in fire science at Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids.

**Top achievements**  
 ■ 4.0 GPA

■ Honor Roll  
 ■ Getting accepted to college

"The changes I expect to see are a higher demand for technology use and an increase in ecological practices. I also think we will see the American public being concerned with matters at home more than matters abroad."

## Math/The Sciences

**MARIAH ELLIOTT**, daughter of Diane Elliott of West Branch, plans to major in pharmacy at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ ACT score of 29

■ eCybermission National Finalist  
 ■ Blank Summer Institute participant, math problem solving

"One major change I expect to see 10 years from now is technology integration in the classroom. Technology is becoming a huge part of this growing world and schools are not scared to use the new technology to further their students' educational experience."

## Vocational Education

**DANIELLE WOLF**, daughter of Darin and Sherry Wolf of West Liberty, plans to major in nutrition at Iowa State University, Ames.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ Washington Leadership Conference  
 ■ Presidential academic award  
 ■ DeKalb award

"These past few years have dramatically shaped me into the person I am today. I know that throughout the next 10 years, I will continue to be sculpted into the person I know I can be. I want to use my education and determination to help better my community and those around me."

## Young Journalist

**ANNIE WHITESIDE**, daughter of Kathy and Bob Whiteside of West Branch, plans to major in journalism and mass communications at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

**Top achievements:**  
 ■ National Honor Society  
 ■ Youth Salute 2011  
 ■ Quill and Scroll Society

"In relation to journalism, 10 years from now I believe all journalism will be online or dealt with in a technology sense. As for myself, in 10 years I will be contributing to the fact that news will be found through technology and I will be on television reporting the daily news."

# ASHFORD

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its operations are substantially in the Higher Learning Commission's 19-state north central region, from Arizona to West Virginia, according to a definition in the commission's 2011 policy book. A spokesperson for the commission said more information could be released about the situation today.

Ralph Wolff, president of the WASC, said Ashford's next steps will be to focus on the areas of concern that the association has pointed out, which Wolff said largely relate to the university's online division of 90,000 to 100,000 students.

"This is an institution that has grown quite rapidly, and the academic infrastructure has not kept pace with this massive online growth," he said.

Wolff said many of these students need extra support, but the college has a rela-

tively small number of writing and academic support specialists to help. Rather, the university has a significant number of recruiters and financial aid representatives, he said.

The university has requested a repeat site visit in the spring of 2013, which will lead to the commission taking action no sooner than June 2013, Wolff said.

"There is a lot to be done," Wolff said. "The university will need to take a very significant and a very immediate effort in each of these areas to demonstrate more than progress, but that they've come into compliance with our standards."

Wolff said this is the first time any accrediting agency has posted all of its actions and team reports for the public to review online. "I think the report demonstrates that we entered into a very thorough and fair process," he said.

Ashford University, formerly Mount St. Clare College, is a for-profit college

purchased in 2005 and owned by Bridgepoint Education. The accrediting association also said the university must show its independence from Bridgepoint with academic and financial control of its programs.

## Reactions from Congress, Wall Street

Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, has conducted hearings on the activities of for-profit colleges as chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, or HELP.

"Given what we've uncovered in the HELP Committee's investigation of the for-profit higher education industry, I continue to have serious concerns about whether Bridgepoint Education and their school Ashford University — along with other for-profit schools — are providing a quality education to their student population, the majority of which are enrolled online. In reaching (its) decision, I am

pleased that WASC has conducted a careful and thoughtful review of the company, and hope they will continue to remain vigilant to ensure that the schools they accredit are truly preparing students for success."

Meanwhile, the stock prices for Bridgepoint Education Inc. fell more than 27 percent Monday after the Ashford accreditation announcement. Later, Bridgepoint shares rallied to trade at \$16.90, down 21 percent.

## By the numbers

In its application, Ashford reported the Clinton Campus enrollment was 973 students and the San Diego online division enrollment was 73,623 students last fall. Site visits were conducted March 11-13 at the Clinton campus and March 13-16 to the San Diego campus.

According to the team's report, "while relationships between the Clinton and San

Diego operations are cordial, the integration of the traditional and nontraditional instructional systems... is not yet fully developed. In many crucial ways, the two quite different models operate largely independent of one another."

The university offers 74 undergraduate degrees and six graduate degrees, according to its 2010-11 catalog. A self-study report filed with the team indicates that Ashford employs 56 full-time faculty at the Clinton Campus and seven full-time faculty in the online division administered from the San Diego Campus, with an additional 36 full-time faculty hired for the online division since December 2011. The university catalog reports the student/faculty ratio in 2006 as 14:1 and 33:1 in 2010.

Completion rates reported in the catalog were 58 percent for men and 42 percent for women, and retention was reported at 36 percent for 2010-11.

## NONCOMPLIANCE

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges report, available online, highlighted several areas of noncompliance by Ashford University, including:

- Student attrition and inadequate levels of degree completion, citing nearly 128,000 students who have withdrawn in the last five years as 240,000 new students were enrolled.
- Inadequate resources for educational purposes, with more than 30 percent of spending going toward student recruitment.
- Insufficient faculty, with a core of 50 full-time faculty members for an online division of more than 90,000 students that is "not sufficient to provide leadership and oversight of an academic enterprise of the size and complexity of Ashford."

The report also cited concerns about the "rigor of coursework" and the university's process for reviewing program and student learning.

Source: [wascsenior.org](http://wascsenior.org)

## ONLINE

Read the to the accreditation documents online at [wascsenior.org](http://wascsenior.org)

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