

Hills Bank and Trust Company

January 7, 2019

Wapello Community School District
Attn: Guidance Counselor/Scholarship Coordinator
406 Mechanic Street
Wapello, IA 52653

To Whom It May Concern:

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019-2020 Hills Bank Leadership Grant. Enclosed is a poster to hang up with details about the grant, helpful hints for applying, and a Leadership Grant testimonial letter from a past recipient. Students must be a **junior** in high school and have a minimum GPA of 2.8 in order to apply.

If selected as a recipient, students will be required to attend a minimum of nine hours of training prior to receiving the grant money. Applications are due **March 1, 2019** and can be found online at www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships. Please let your students know about this great opportunity.

Please note that students do not have to be a 4-H member to apply. For additional information, visit www.HillsBank.com/LeadershipGrant. If you have any questions, please direct them to Mary Clancy, Iowa 4-H Foundation scholarship coordinator, at clancy@iastate.edu or 515-432-3882.

Sincerely,

Tara Horesowsky
Commercial Marketing Associate



Leadership Grant

A Testimonial by Bethany Gorsch

When I was in high school, I was unsure what my future would hold. I did not have a definite plan going into college, but initially thought about majoring in Pharmacy. During my senior year of high school, I was excited to learn I was selected as a 2010 Hills Bank Leadership Grant recipient. Our first meeting was held the fall of 2009. I was introduced to the other recipients in the area. During the first sessions, we learned about leadership and developed our own definitions of leadership. By January 2010, we were focusing on taking initiative in the community through the activities we participated in. By our final meeting, which was in April of 2010, all of the recipients felt that they had gained friendships, a better understanding of leadership, and better preparation for our first year of college. To this day, I still am in contact with other Leadership Grant recipients.

As I started my degree at the University of Iowa, I quickly learned what a small world this is. After moving into my dorm, I walked around my floor to get to know other students and hopefully make new friends. I was pleasantly surprised when I bumped into Emily, one of my friends from Hills Bank Leadership Grant. Emily turned into one of my biggest supporters as I founded the first ever University of Iowa Collegiate 4-H program – something the Leadership Grant gave me the drive and motivation to create.

As my time at the University of Iowa progressed, I began to understand Pharmacy was not the path for me. I needed a major where I could use my leadership and communication skills to the best of my ability. Knowing this, I decided to change my major to Business Management. As I participated in my business classes, I realized this was the right fit for me.

I was asked to come back to the Leadership Grant reception in April 2011 to share my college experiences and help the new Hills Bank Leadership Grant recipients grasp the opportunities they can take advantage of when starting college. Throughout my time at the University, I created an organization, studied abroad in Ireland, held four internships, volunteered in community service, and gave leadership through the Civic Ambassador program – a program sponsored through the Provost's office. By taking part in the Hills Bank Leadership Grant program, I was able to better prepare for college. I also learned the importance of taking advantage of every opportunity given. Hills Bank Leadership Grant gave me a drive to do better in my community and the motivation to help people.

I graduated in December 2014 with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Management from the Tippie College of Business with a Certificate in Leadership Studies. Hills Bank and the Leadership Grant Program helped me come full circle in my college career, professional career, and also in life. Currently, I am a First Vice President, Treasury Management at Hills Bank, where I strive to build meaningful relationships with business owners and their employees. I would encourage any high school student to apply for the Hills Bank Leadership Grant. It provided me with financial support, gave me the opportunity to meet new people, taught me how to use leadership in my studies and life, and gave me motivation for my first year of college that was the foundation for my future.

Hills Bank Leadership Program

The Hills Bank Leadership Program is for juniors in high school in the Hills Bank Service Area. This area includes the following counties: Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, and Washington. Potential Participants apply as juniors, and participate in leadership training sponsored by Hills Bank. Upon completion of the leadership courses, each participant receives a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarships are for students applying to a two or four year college or university in the state of Iowa. Twenty students are selected for the program.

The Hills Bank Leadership Program utilizes the same on-line application system as the Iowa 4-H Scholarships. Applicants will see directions for the Hills Bank application as well as the Iowa 4-H Foundation Scholarships. Please keep in mind that they are two separate programs utilizing the same on-line system.

Please note that the Hills Bank leadership program is for **current JUNIORS in high school**. The Iowa 4-H Scholarships are for incoming college freshman or current college undergraduates.

Online application materials, essays, transcripts and the required 2 letters of recommendation, must be submitted online through the Awards Spring system no later than 11:59 PM March 1, 2019 to be considered. It is important to plan ahead in regards to completing the application as well submitting the required documents, including the letters of recommendation. Waiting until March 1st to begin and complete these tasks is NOT RECOMMENDED.

The following items are required with application: (all items will be submitted online)

- a. Current, complete an **UNOFFICIAL** grade transcript (include Fall 2018 grades) (to be uploaded with application)
- **For Freshman Application, if college courses were taken in high school** and are not listed on the uploaded high school transcript, upload a separate list of courses taken with known grades, or upload a copy of college transcript(s) or student grade report(s).
NOTE: Multiple transcripts can be uploaded on a single application form.
- c. Two letters of recommendation: (to be submitted online by the reference). Letters may come from a school/college academic advisor, teacher, community or civic leader or other individual of the applicant's choice.

Letters of recommendation must be submitted through the Awards Spring System. Applicants will submit the e-mail addresses of the appropriate references. The system will then send an e-mail requesting the letters of recommendation directly from the references. The references will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to complete the task.

Direct questions to Mary Clancy, clancy@iastate.edu, (712) 830-1321. Please feel free to call or text any time between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Hills Bank

Leadership Grant

Program

Who is eligible

High school juniors residing in or attending schools in the following counties:

Benton Cedar Iowa Johnson Jones
Keokuk Linn Louisa Muscatine Washington

Grants

Grants are available to students attending any of Iowa's accredited two or four year in-state colleges, universities, or community colleges. Each grant totals \$1,000. A total of 20 grants will be awarded each year.

Selection criteria

Applicants are evaluated on their involvement in:

- Community service
- Student group activities
- Work experience
- High school academic information, G.P.A. of 2.80 or higher required

Recipients of this grant, applying during their junior year of high school, agree to attend a minimum of nine hours of Hills Bank sponsored Leadership Training during their senior year. Applicants are not required to be a 4-H member.

Visit www.iowa4hfoundation.org/scholarships to apply.

1. Complete the questionnaire
2. Provide a high school transcript
3. Provide two letters of recommendation

Application deadline: **March 1, 2019**

For questions and further information, contact:

Mary Clancy
515-432-2882
clancy@iastate.edu

Or visit HillsBank.com/LeadershipGrant

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and Trust Company

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