



IowaCollegeAid.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Heather Doe  
515-725-3417  
515-229-6377 cell  
[heather.doe@iowa.gov](mailto:heather.doe@iowa.gov)

### **Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship Recipients Announced**

*Both award recipients to attend Iowa State University, Study Agriculture*

**Des Moines, IA, June 22, 2015** – Iowa College Aid has announced Macy Marek of Riverside, IA, and Jenny Petersen of Melcher-Dallas, IA, as recipients of the 2015 Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes outstanding Iowa high school seniors who have actively participated in the Iowa State Fair and plan to attend an Iowa college or university.

Both Marek and Peterson will use the \$1,000 scholarship to assist in their studies at Iowa State University where Marek will pursue a double major in agriculture business and agriculture education, and Petersen will study agricultural communications.

“Both Macy and Jenny reflect the spirit of the Iowa State Fair scholarship, as both have had their lives shaped by their experiences volunteering at the state fair,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the state agency charged with administering the scholarship. “Their dedication to a future in agriculture is great for Iowa.”

Petersen said that receiving the scholarship was a special honor due to her long involvement with the State Fair.

“I have been involved in all four corners of the fairgrounds from open food entries to 4-H, FFA, and open livestock to vegetables, even restoring a tractor for FFA and painting it pink,” said Petersen. “The state fair holds a special place in my heart, and that is why I am so grateful that I am a recipient of this scholarship.”

Marek said that she sees the scholarship as an opportunity to be a positive force on the future of a field that has played a large role in her youth.

-more-

“With this scholarship, I will be able to pay for my education easier and make a difference in the lives of others sooner. The agriculture and livestock industry has given a lot to me as I have grown up in it. I want to be able to use my education to give back, not only to the people who have helped me, but also to the generations that come after me,” she said. “I want to help them find their passion and see the importance in agriculture and everything of which they choose to be a part.”

Marek and Petersen will receive their awards during the Iowa State Fair, when they will be presented a certificate of recognition by Governor Branstad.

For more information about the Governor Terry E. Branstad Iowa State Fair Scholarship, go to [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov) or contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456.

###

***About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission***

*Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$70.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR-UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).*