

Linton-Stockton seniors get good news from ISU

March 29, 2005
Linton Daily Citizen
Linton, IN

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By Halea Franklin, staff writer

While other high school seniors are stressing over how to pay for college, what college to attend and what to study, two Linton-Stockton High School seniors aren't stressing thanks to an elite scholarship program through Indiana State University.

On Thursday, the Networks Financial Institute announced Zachary Goodman and Katie Ladson as Network Scholars.

As Network Scholars, Goodman and Ladson will both receive a \$20,000 four-year scholarship which will cover tuition and fees and a professional development account valued at \$3,000. They will also receive a new, wireless laptop computer, access to at least one paid internship, an international experience, an Indiana State University faculty mentor, an executive mentor during their junior and seniors years and leadership development training and opportunities.

This year is the third year for the elite scholarship program at Indiana State.

According to Networks Financial Institute Executive Director Liz Georgakopoulos, the Networks Scholars program is unique in its holistic approach to preparing financial services students for post-college employment.

Goodman, who plans to study accounting finance, is excited about being chosen as a Network Scholar and about the opportunity to study abroad, as is Ladson, who plans to study accounting.

To be eligible to become a Networks Scholar, a student must have a high school cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher, rank in the top third of their graduating class and receive a SAT I score of at least 1,000 out of 1,600 or receive an equivalent ACT score. Applicants also had to complete an essay along with an application.

Goodman and Ladson, along with 25 other students, then spent an entire day on the campus of Indiana State in interviews. Ladson said they had personal interviews with two interviewers as well as small discussion groups.

"It was rough," Ladson said.

Goodman and Ladson do not know how many students applied for the program, but Ladson said 27 students were chosen for interviews. Ladson said she along with the rest of those being interviewed were shown a tall stack of papers representing the many students who had applied but had not been chosen for the interview. After the interviews, Ladson said 17 students were chosen to be Network Scholars.

Indiana State University's College of Business has high expectations for Networks Scholars. In addition to pursuing a career in the financial services industry and maintaining enrollment as a full-time student, they must also maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and a 3.2 GPA in business courses. They must also participate in at least one internship, study abroad one

semester or participate in an extended study abroad trip. They must also participate with both faculty and executive mentors, participate in Network Scholars activities and College of Business events, participate in leadership development opportunities and maintain standards of conduct consistent with Indiana State University.

Goodman said he applied for the scholarship because he had an interest in pursuing a career in business.

"I wasn't really thinking about Indiana State, but Mr. (Mike) Perigo (high school guidance counselor) told me about this, so I applied for it."

Ladson said she applied for the scholarship because she knew she wanted to pursue some sort of business degree.

"You can't pass this up," Ladson, who is excited about attending Indiana State in the fall, said.

Goodman is the son of Alan and Connie Goodman, and Ladson is the daughter of Doug and Annette Ladson.