



German American
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of the Midwest Inc.
Minnesota Chapter

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For Immediate Release

German American Chamber of Commerce Awards Scholarships to Minnesota High School Students

Minneapolis, February 17, 2010. This Friday, February 19, the Minnesota Chapter of the German American Chamber of Commerce (GACC) will award scholarships valued between \$250 and \$1,000 to four Minnesota high school students who won this year's GACC German Essay Writing Contest. The Chamber's Scholarship Committee has identified the four winners and will present awards during a dinner celebration at the German American Institute (GAI) on historical Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Promoting business between U.S. and German companies is the mission of the GACC. The local Minnesota Chapter views fostering young Americans' German language skills as critical to understanding the German business partner's culture and communicate effectively. The program was established in 1998, and has supplied German Scholarships of \$35,000 total to high school students in Minnesota.

In a time of heavy cutbacks for German as a foreign language at high schools state wide, the Minnesota Chapter of the GACC encourages students to continue studying German – the award money is tied to spending it for the German learning experience. "Our student winners in the past years have decided to use the award money to support obtaining college degrees in the German language, or to help finance a trip to Germany," explains Luebbert Kruezenga, President of the Minnesota Chapter of the GACC.

The students had to demonstrate their interest and ability in the German language and participate in the German Essay Writing Contest. "Last year we had winners from Rochester and Winona in the south. This year, we received essays from high schools as far to the north as Wadena and Mora and all over the greater Twin Cities area: from Minnetonka and Wayzata in the west metro to Maple Grove in the north, Shakopee in the south over to White Bear Lake in the eastern metro", comments Kruezenga. "Through their German learning efforts the students contribute to better communication and better business." The winning students, their teachers and parents are invited to the awards dinner.