

Media Advisory

Iowa Association of School Boards
6000 Grand Ave., Ste A,
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
www.ia-sb.org

For Immediate Release: May 9, 2019

Great Photo Opportunity:

South O'Brien Senior Awarded \$2,000 Special Education Teacher Scholarship

WHAT: Senior Bailey Tjossem, South O'Brien Schools, is the recipient of the 2019 Special Education Teacher Scholarship of Iowa in recognition for her academic accomplishments, volunteerism, extracurricular activities and educational goals.

"After college, I would love to be a special education teacher in a small district. I want to make a difference in each of my student's lives by being a positive leader and someone they can trust," said Tjossem.

Tjossem has received academic awards, academic letters and athletic letters throughout her high school career. She has been actively involved in extracurricular activities including student council, softball and volleyball. Over the past year, she has volunteered everyday at her local elementary school in the special education room. "I have fallen in love with special education and am determined to make a difference in children's lives with disabilities," she said.

After graduation, Tjossem plans to double major in Elementary Education and Special Education and hopes to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher throughout college.

It comes as no surprise that Tjossem references a special education elementary student as someone who has made a significant difference in her life. "Owen is my inspiration for teaching special education. I have developed a passion to help children with disabilities. I will be the one person in their lives that has the attitude that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to—no matter how big or small," said Tjossem.

WHEN & WHERE: The awards presentation will be held on May 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the South O'Brien High School and is open to the public. The award will be presented by IASB Executive Director Lisa Bartusek.

For more information or to let us know you're planning to attend, please contact Tammy Votava, communications director, tvotava@ia-sb.org, (515) 250-0571.



ClaimAid

ABOUT THE AWARD: The Special Education Teacher Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior who plans to study education, with a focus on special education. Co-sponsored by ClaimAid Consulting Corporation and the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), the scholarship is awarded based on a number of requirements, including educational goals and academic accomplishments.

ClaimAid is a leading provider of comprehensive eligibility and enrollment services and claims resolution for schools, hospitals, patients, individuals and their families.

IASB is a nonprofit organization representing Iowa's 330 public school districts, nine area education agencies and 15 community colleges.

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