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News Release

April 25, 2012—**Striegel Wins CDI Scholarship Top Award**

Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2012 Scholarship Program. Winners are selected from applicants from across the state. The scholarships are awarded to students pursuing further education in fields of agriculture or natural resources. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership and academic achievement.

The first place award of \$1800 goes to Adam Striegel, of What Cheer, Iowa. Adam, who is academically first in his class, has been extremely active in school activities. He lettered in four varsity sports and served as captain of the cross country team. He participated in choir and performed at solo and ensemble contest. Adam's list of FFA activities and honors is impressive. He has attended several FFA leadership conferences, has been on numerous judging teams (including soil judging), and is currently president of his chapter and hoping to become a state officer. Outside of school he developed leadership skills in 4-H as a member, an exhibitor, and a volunteer. Adam already has boots-on-the-ground experience with conservation structure installation and the use of best management practices. He will be attending Iowa State University this fall, majoring in Agricultural Education. He states that "being a teacher will put me in a position to impact students' lives on a daily basis." (Adam represents Region 9, Keokuk SWCD, SE Iowa.)

Rebecca Clay from Le Mars, Iowa, is the \$1200 second place award winner. Rebecca, with a 4.0 GPA, is a student at Le Mars High School, has demonstrated leadership ability in student council and as a class officer. She has a broad variety of experiences including cross country and track, music and drama, and writing and yearbook. She volunteers in her community and represented her local American Legion at Girls' State. She served as an officer in National Honor Society. She enjoys outdoors activities like hiking, biking, and running. Rebecca plans to attend Iowa State University this fall to pursue a degree in Agronomy and Global Resource Systems. Her career goals include "teaching and implementing more sustainable agricultural practices in Third World countries" which "are both better for Earth and better for consumers." (Rebecca represents Region 1, Plymouth SWCD, NW Iowa.)

The third place award of \$1000 goes to Todd Manternach of Cascade, Iowa. Todd has been active and successful in basketball and football as a player and a team leader. He has maintained honor roll status and is a member of National Honor Society. Outside of school, Todd is a 4-H member, on the grilling team with the Jones County Pork Producers, and serves in his church. Growing up on a farm has helped Todd deal with the responsibilities of livestock and field chores and the challenges and rewards of country living. Living on a farm where

conservation practices have been observed for two generations, he is aware of “the importance of soil and water conservation.” He looks forward to learning new practices as he pursues a degree in Agricultural Studies at Iowa State University. His career goal is to return to his family farm. (Todd represents Region 4, Jones SWCD, E Iowa.)

In addition to the three state winners, District winners will each receive \$300 for their outstanding achievement. They include: Tate Klocke from Rockwell City (Region 2, Calhoun SWCD), Jonathan Gardner from Elma (Region 3, Howard SWCD), Alex Cohrs from Logan (Region 5, Harrison SWCD), Madison Beeler from Peru (Region 6, Madison SWCD), Dustin Lange from Alburnett (Region 7, Linn SWCD), and Ethan Stephens from Malvern (Region 8, Mills SWCD).

Conservation Districts of Iowa is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the 100 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide assistance and educational programs for the protection of our soil, water, and other natural resources. For further information on the scholarship awards, visit www.cdiowa.org.