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**Madison Southern High School student wins KHEAA essay contest**

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (October 10, 2023)** — A junior at Madison Southern High School in Berea has won the 2023 “Promote Your School” scholarship essay contest.

Peyton Gabbard wrote about how education builds a stronger community “because it supplies the world with competent and capable citizens who have learned the lessons of hard work, dedication and unity.”

Gabbard will receive a \$500 scholarship when she enrolls in college. KHEAA staff will do a photo shoot at the school, with the photos featured in Getting In, a guide to Kentucky higher education and other KHEAA publications.

“Congratulations to Peyton, whose words showed exactly why we should always put education first,” Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman said. “The future of our commonwealth is in our classrooms today, and by investing in our schools, we have the power to transform lives and help students like Peyton pursue their dreams.”

Judges praised Gabbard’s essay, saying it drew the reader right in and demonstrated how seemingly unimportant high school assignments can truly apply to adult life.

Gabbard serves as president of the junior class at Madison Southern, has earned a 4.0 grade point average and scored a 33 on the ACT, said counselor Ashley Hall. In addition to her academic career, Gabbard plays golf, is in Madison County Youth Leadership and loves to read and play guitar.

KHEAA is the state agency that administers the merit-based Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program, as well as need-based grants and other programs to help students pay their higher education expenses. Kentucky Lottery funds pay for many of those

programs. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit [kheaa.com](http://kheaa.com); write KHEAA at PO Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602; or call 800-928-8926.

In addition, KHEAA administers the KY Saves 529 program, which allows families to save for college. For more information about KY Saves 529, [kysaves.com](http://kysaves.com).

KHESLC is the Kentucky not-for-profit agency committed to offering students/borrowers with the lowest possible cost assistance in achieving their higher education dreams by offering the Advantage Education Loan program. For more information about Advantage Education Loans, visit [AdvantageEducationLoan.com](http://AdvantageEducationLoan.com).

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