

Urbandale High School Receives Award For Academic Excellence And Outstanding Achievement

Out of all Iowa 4A high schools, Urbandale High School placed fifth in the statewide Bank Iowa Traveling Challenge Cup Competition for the 2016–17 school year

URBANDALE, Iowa – September 18, 2017 – In addition to recently receiving results ranking [Urbandale Community School District \(Urbandale CSD\)](#) in the top 7% of all 334 school districts in the state of Iowa for kindergarten through third-grade students meeting or exceeding literacy proficiency benchmarks, Urbandale CSD has yet another reason to celebrate. Out of all Iowa 4A high schools, Urbandale High School placed fifth in the Bank Iowa Traveling Challenge Cup Competition for the 2016–17 school year.

“Urbandale High School has always taken great pride in creating high-quality educational experiences in the classroom and exceptional leadership experiences on the courts, fields and stage,” said UHS Principal Mr. Tim Carver. “It is great when the work and preparation put in by our students, teachers, athletes, coaches, performers and directors gets recognized at such a high level. We want to thank Bank Iowa and its supporters for this honor.”

Introduced in 2007, the Bank Iowa Traveling Challenge Cup is a statewide competition designed to recognize Iowa high school students for academic excellence and outstanding achievement during state competitions. Points are assigned for every activity in which a school reaches a state competition, advances in a state competition, receives Division I ratings and earns academic recognition from either the IHSA, IGSA, IHSSA and IHSMA. Winning schools in each of the state’s four classifications (1A, 2A, 3A and 4A) are determined based on the best combined score.

The 2016-17 top ten 4A schools and points earned are as follows:

1. Waukee (1,635)
2. Pleasant Valley (1,510)
3. Linn-Mar, Marion (1,480)
4. Iowa City, West (1,120)
5. Urbandale (1,040)
6. Mason City (920)
7. Ankeny (895)
8. Valley, West Des Moines (890)
9. Indianola (875)
10. Ames (865)

“Our placement in the final 2016-2017 standings of the Bank Iowa Challenge Cup further demonstrates the team approach we employ in Activities at Urbandale High School,” said Urbandale CSD Director of Activities and Community Education Dr. William Watson. “Our students, coaches, and directors work hard to ensure that they are successful not only within the context of their individual activity, but ensure that students understand the importance of and represent those positive values that participation can help instill.”

This positive team approach is also seen in J-Hawk Foundations. Six years ago, the Urbandale Activities Department began researching and assessing leadership development programs that could be implemented within the activities program. However, most programs were strictly preventative programs for drug and alcohol abuse and did not fully encapsulate the core values and tenets required to support a successful leadership program for students. This lack of an existing program became the catalyst for the Urbandale Activities Department to collaborate with the Drake University Robert D. and Billie Ray Center and the Institute for Excellence and Ethics in Manlius, New York, in order to build the J-Hawk Foundations program which is based on similar programs at the collegiate level, but unlike any existing high school programs. The J-Hawk Foundations program is entering its sixth year in the 2017–18 school year and focuses on character and leadership development for students in activities.



UHS students have the opportunity to participate in 26 activities throughout their high school years. No matter which activities they choose they are always members of one team: Urbandale J-Hawks.

Urbandale CSD is proud of the meaningful work taking place throughout the district to help students build leadership capacity both inside and outside the classroom. [Transforming education](#) throughout the district is at the core of every learning experience. Educators partner with students to help them discover, define and develop their innate capabilities in order to reach their full potential. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleCSD](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleCSD).

About Bank Iowa Corporation

Bank Iowa has 25 locations in 22 communities across the state: Altoona, Charter Oak, Clarinda, Denison, Essex, Fredericksburg, Fremont, Gilmore City, Humboldt, Johnston, Lawler, Manilla, New Hampton, Newton, Oskaloosa, Pella, Red Oak, Schleswig, Shenandoah, Villisca, Waucoma and West Des Moines. Each Bank Iowa location offers the services of a large financial institution but operates as a community bank in which decisions are made locally. Bank Iowa Corporation is a privately owned bank holding company headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, with assets of more than \$1.2 billion. To learn more about Bank Iowa, visit: www.bankiowa.bank

About Urbandale Community School District

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The District serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale District supports an increasingly diverse student population where 47 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the District. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: UrbandaleSchools.com and follow on Twitter [@UrbandaleCSD](https://twitter.com/UrbandaleCSD).

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