

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** May 23, 2006

**Newly Formed Scholarship Benefits Area Accounting and Finance Majors**

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*Seven Area Colleges Participate in the Inaugural IMA Outstanding Student  
Scholarship Award*

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI. May 23, 2006**—Grand Rapids-area Accounting and Finance Majors have a new scholarship opportunity to look forward to thanks to the Grand Rapids Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA). The *2006 IMA Outstanding Student Scholarship Award* provides students with \$500 in tuition assistance funded by the IMA, plus a professional membership to the IMA to assist them with career planning, funded and sponsored by Financial Edge Executive Resources.

Students from the following colleges recently received the 2006 IMA Outstanding Student Scholarship Award: Aquinas College, Calvin College, Cornerstone College, Davenport College, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, and Hope College.

Development of the scholarship was the brainchild of IMA Director of Student Activities and Past President Todd Hanson. In his volunteer role with IMA, and as a professional financial recruiter, Hanson understands first-hand what challenges face these students upon graduation. “As a member of IMA and a professional financial recruiter, I’ve made it my personal mission to help students prepare for the job market in advance of graduation,” explained Hanson. “After meeting regularly with students to discuss career planning and employability skills, I realized that many students were not tapping into networking and professional learning opportunities at professional organizations such as the IMA.”

Hanson set out to create a program that would reward students for their academic excellence, while also encouraging them to get involved in the IMA in order to foster their professional networking, education and professional skills prior to graduation. In order to create the scholarship, Hanson worked closely with accounting and finance faculty to develop a nomination system that would

reward students for their academic excellence, while also taking into consideration their commitment to community service and involvement.

The 2006 recipients of the IMA Outstanding Student Scholarship Awards is as follows:

1.       **Aquinas College:** Andrea Dickersen (fifth year senior in 2007). High School: Creston
2.       **Calvin College:** Harrison Jorritsma (December 2006 planned graduate). High School Niagra Falls, Canada
3.       **Cornerstone University:** Melissa Campbell (December 2006 planned graduate). High School: Kalkaska
4.       **Davenport University:** Deborah Wingerter (graduated May 2006). High School: Comstock Park
5.       **Ferris State University:** Kevin Simon (2006 sophomore). High School: Fowler
6.       **Grand Valley State University:** Leigh Blanchard (April 2007 planned graduate). High School: Detroit
7.       **Hope College:** Scott Teusink (May 2007 graduate planned). High School: Fremont

Benefits of belonging to the IMA Grand Rapids Chapter include among the following:

- Networking Opportunities
- Education
- Professional Skills

For information about the IMA Outstanding Student Scholarship Awards, or to arrange a presentation for financial students/majors: “*How to prepare for a career in finance or accounting,*” please contact IMA Student Activities Director Todd Hanson at (616) 956-2981, or via email at [hanson@fin-edge.com](mailto:hanson@fin-edge.com).