

*I think your program is great for Iowa and a tribute to President Hoover–this program brings Iowa’s president to the lives of our young people.*

Nicholas Colangelo, Ph.D., Director, University of Iowa Belin & Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development

### **From Uncommon Student Alumni**

*[The program] taught me the power of youth, the power of myself.*

*My involvement with the Herbert Hoover Association has continued to be a valuable experience, especially because my service project benefitted people with disabilities. The Hoover Association project continues to come up in interviews and conversations.*

*Thank you for all your support throughout the year, especially in writing scholarship letters of recommendation. I have received some nice awards and still have a couple that might come through. It’s been great to have your kind words.*

*Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the scholarship program. It taught me that I am capable of more than even I thought I was. I had a good time presenting my project to the judges and finally showing off my hard work.*

*I never realized how much of an impact I could make on my community. Thank you again for making my day at West Branch one that I will never forget!*

*Being a part of the USA is an event in my life that has developed into an unexpected, continuous thread even into adulthood. Participating in the program taught me I can do whatever I set my mind to and every act we carry out to better our communities matters. I still keep this on my resume, and you wouldn’t believe the questions I get! People are so intrigued by the program and the purpose behind it. I am so proud to be an alum!*

*The Coca-Cola Scholarship definitely was an amazing experience, but I have to say, with total truth and honesty, that I would have chosen any of the Hoover weekends over the Coke weekend any day. I can’t believe the amazing relationship I’ve started because of your program. I still can’t say thank you enough for such an opportunity.*

*I truly will never forget my experience as an Uncommon Student and value it as an important part of my growth as a service-minded individual.*

*I’ve learned a lot through the Hoover program. I hope that someday I can return the support you’ve given to me.*

*As I now recollect on my Hoover experience, I realize just how “Hoover-esque” your scholarship program is. Not only did you have fourteen outstanding leadership projects complete throughout the state, but you inspired teenagers to accomplish what may seem impossible to many adults. Just as Herbert Hoover made people believe they were capable of*

*completing the infeasible task, you have given me an amazing amount of motivation to accomplish whatever my goal may be.*

*The Hoover Scholarship was a big stepping stone in my life. Applying for the scholarship is what got me motivated to do my art project, but I ended up getting several awards and even some national scholarships surely in part because of that project. Doing the project and receiving the scholarships gave me confidence and encouragement to keep trying to do great things. So I am really grateful to the Hoover Association.*

*What an excellent learning experience it was in terms of fund raising, raising social awareness about a meaningful cause, and how to approach people about investing in charity. I've applied so many lessons learned from my USA experience personally and professionally, especially in motivating people to think outside themselves and their own circumstances. Taking action for social justice and helping people has become very important to me, and I'm sure that my USA experience played a key role in the development of that passion.*

*Participating in the USA was my first attempt at coming up with a proposal for a project and working on it. It meant seeing all the support I have to go forward and do good works, an attempt to make a dream reality, and the strength to continue working in what I believed in. It also meant that future proposals were easier to do. It also allowed me to learn more about Iowan history and spend time in a place I enjoy visiting—Hoover and West Branch.*

*Your organization has made a tremendous impact on my life, and I really appreciate the positive experience and program that you create for students (along with the great effort you put in to keep in contact with everyone).*