Students from five Osage County high schools will be honored Nov. 13 by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment.

A total of 32 seniors from Osage and Wabaunsee counties will be recognized for academic achievements and named Kansas Honor Scholars at a 6:30 p.m. dinner program at Wabaunsee High School in Alma.

Honorees from Osage County are: From Burlingame High School - Tyler Davis, Chris Walker; Lyndon High School - Stephanie Goetz, Ashley Persinger, Kayla Schmidt, Chelsea Schmitz, Alex Wendling; Marais Des Cygnes Valley High School - Dennis Becker, Bryan Phillips; Osage City High School - Sadie Johnson, Neil Holloway, Julia Barnhart, Amber Oshel; Santa Fe Trail High School - Cameron Cauthon, Melissa Jolly Lauren, Lang Jennifer Payne, Kayla Roush, Audrey Ullery, Allison Whiteside, Kelsie Wiscombe, and Johnathan Zeller.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

During the ceremony, each student will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Jamie Winkelman, assistant director for alumni programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Kevin Corbett, president of the KU Alumni Association, will speak to the students, parents and guests.

Honored students will be guests of the alumni association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of $9 each.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Mary Stuewe of Alma will be the site coordinator. Josi Garland of Osage City will be county coordinator for Osage and Wabaunsee counties.
On Monday, Nov. 5, a special reception was held at the University of Kansas, honoring students in the Dean’s Scholars Program. There will be nineteen students honored.

Matthew Hudson, a graduate of Humboldt High School is among those being honored. He is a Junior at the University of Kansas majoring in psychology.

Joseph Steinmetz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, will welcome returning and newly selected Dean’s Scholars. Established in 1992, the program provides recipients with annual $1,000 scholarships and faculty mentors and is designed to diversify the talent pool available for liberal arts and sciences faculties.

The Dean’s Scholars Program is part of the University Honors Program and is geared for academically talented students in the liberal arts and sciences who are interested in pursuing graduate study and who represent groups traditionally under represented in graduate education.

Dean’s Scholars are matched with a distinguished KU faculty member and are required to complete special seminars designed to build skills and strategies necessary for graduate study and research. Students are selected as sophomores and juniors based on a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

James Orr directs the program. Orr is an Honors Faculty Fellow and is a professor of biological sciences. Nicolas Shump coordinates the program. Shump is a Dean’s Scholars Program alumnus and a doctoral student in American studies.
Kansas has a growing shortage of pharmacists, but given the resources, the University of Kansas could fix the problem. KU has the only pharmacy school in the state. The six-year program graduates slightly more than 100 students a year, and that simply is not enough. Much of rural Kansas in particular is struggling to keep pharmacists. KU is addressing the situation, seeking $50 million from the state to expand the pharmacy program at Lawrence and Wichita. KU needs the support first of the Board of Regents to put a request before the Legislature in 2008, then of lawmakers to approve the spending.