



The Lewer Agency, Inc.

For Immediate Release

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International Student from West Africa Wins ‘Make Your Mark’ Scholarship

KANSAS CITY, MO – (April 23, 2010) – **The Lewer Agency, Inc.** announced today that **Kibrom Gebre-Egziabher**, 29, a student at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Allendale, Michigan, has won first place in the **LewerMark® “Make Your Mark”** scholarship program. Mr. Gebre-Egziabher is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Cell and Molecular Biology.

The Lewer Agency, providers of LewerMark health insurance programs for inbound international students and U.S. citizens studying abroad, awarded the \$1,000 scholarship for the winning entry in the 2010 LewerMark "Make Your Mark" essay contest.

Mr. Gebre-Egziabher won the grand prize in the fifth annual LewerMark scholarship contest for his essay response to the question "How will an international education help me make a difference in the world?"

According to his scholarship sponsor, **Kate Stoetzner**, Director of International Student and Scholar Services at GVSU, “Kibrom's story is amazing. His drive and the reason for his drive, I have not seen equaled in my years working with international students. He was orphaned at birth in Ethiopia. SOS-Children's Village in Mekelle, Ethiopia is where he was raised. He excelled there as a boy and went on to SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College (High School) in Tema, Ghana. He was training to be an auto mechanic, because that was the best opportunity for him.”

In high school, Mr. Gebre-Egziabher won an academic scholarship which made it possible for him to finish his education at an international school in Ghana, West Africa. While studying in Ghana, he was selected to study at the American School of Paris in France for two months. He graduated from high school in 2001 and received a scholarship to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor’s degree. He was admitted to GVSU in 2008, where he is studying Pre-Medicine at a graduate level.

Mr. Gebre-Egziabher’s LewerMark scholarship essay reveals his motivation for pursuing a career in medicine. “In the summer of 2006, a visit to my home-country, Ethiopia, inspired me to be a medical doctor,” he wrote. “My best friend from childhood, Abebe, had contracted HIV-Aids. I visited him in the local hospital, and he told me he saw a doctor only once in the last five months. I did not ask why; I knew the answer. There were only two or three doctors available for the nearly 80,000 citizens. Two months later, Abebe died. These stories echo from all corners of Ethiopia and Africa. Since that awakening, I have dedicated myself and my life to change my country’s health care.”

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Mackenzie Evans, 45, Mathematics major at Eastern Washington University in Spokane, Washington, won the second-place LewerMark \$750 scholarship. He was sponsored by **Joneel Roley, MA. MAT.**

Adriana Mendez, 20, of Venezuela, an Advertising Art Direction major at Columbia College Chicago, won a \$500 scholarship. She was sponsored by International Student Affairs Director, **Gigi Posejpal.**

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Company background: Founded in 1956, The Lewer Agency, Inc. is a national employee benefits and student insurance agency and administrator headquartered in Kansas City, MO. In 1991, the agency introduced the LewerMark® Student Insurance Plans, designed specifically to provide comprehensive medical insurance benefits for international students studying in the US and domestic students studying abroad.