Kimberly Howell has been teaching at Lumberport Elementary School since 1995, almost all of those years have been spent teaching fourth graders. For the last 12 years, she’s been teaching those fourth graders about different careers and why it’s important to think about them at such a young age. Howell’s winning essay in the teacher portion of the SMART529 When I Grow Up essay contest explained her approach and philosophy and earned her a $2,500 cash prize.

“We start at the beginning of the year,” she said. “We read books about different jobs. We take field trips to experience different jobs. We have a career day where people with different careers come to us. We’ve had judges, football players, business owners, funeral home directors, doctors, EMTs, just all kinds of people with different careers.”

Howell’s students also get to visit Fairmont State to get a peek at what college looks like. They tour the West Virginia Air Center and learn how students at the nearby Robert C. Byrd National Aerospace Education Center can have careers waiting on them after graduation.
“It’s important for kids to know that you can go to college and walk into jobs,” she said. “We’re also a tech school, so we use the computer lab a lot. It really helps in exposing our students to different types of technology and careers. We have a lot of children who have parents that are incarcerated or have died. We have a lot of drug culture to deal with. We really work to focus on the kids and tell them we love them. We have to show them what’s possible because they don’t see it at home.”

Howell said her students learn how helpful it is to have a career they can love and not just a job. They learn how significant it is when you regularly get paid and can go to the grocery when you need to or maybe take a vacation or own a car. These benefits are foreign to many of Howell’s students, so planting those seeds of possibility helps fuel and motivate them. She emphasizes that education is the best way to escape situations of poverty, neglect, and abuse.

Howell spends the entire year focusing on careers to help her students develop their interest and have a thorough understanding of what it takes. Throughout the year they are given opportunities to research, listen, use technology, practice public speaking and do it all in a kid-friendly language that reaches them on their level.

“This program (When I Grow Up essay contest) has helped so much,” Howell said. “It helps the kids know what’s possible. It helps them look for role models that have careers.”

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SMART529 WV TEACHERS’ ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM
Entries must be postmarked by 11:59 pm February 28, 2020

No purchase necessary. Offer void if prohibited by law. Employees of Hartford Funds, its affiliates and the West Virginia State Treasurer’s Office are not eligible to win. Contest prize: $2,500 cash award.

Entries must be mailed to:
SMART529 WV Teachers’ Essay Contest • PO Box 11136 • Charleston, WV 25339

Entrant Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ________ Zip: ____________
Phone Number: ____________________________
E-mail Address: _______________________________________________________________
School: _____________________________________________________________________
Principal: ___________________________________________________________________
School District: ____________________________ Grade level taught: ____________

Entrant Signature (required): By entering I acknowledge that I have read the Official Rules, fully understand its terms and sign here freely and voluntarily.

X __________________________________________________________________________

Essay Question: How have you/will you use the SMART529 When I Grow Up Essay Contest to emphasize the importance of higher education to your students? Visit SMART529.com/teachers to view suggested lesson plans. (Answers must be 500 words or less)

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(Please attach a separate sheet if necessary)
SMART529 is offered by the West Virginia Prepaid Tuition and College Savings Board of Trustees. For more information about the program call toll-free (866) 574-3542.

SMART529 WV TEACHERS’ ESSAY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

No purchase necessary to participate or win. Offer void if prohibited or restricted by law. A purchase will not improve your chances of winning.

Eligibility: Entrants must be employed as of January 1, 2020 as a full-time K-5 teacher in a West Virginia public or private school or as a student teacher in a K-5 classroom in a West Virginia public or private school. Commercial enterprises, business entities and individuals employed by or affiliated with the Sponsor, Hartford Funds Management, LLC, the West Virginia State Treasurer’s Office, The Manahan Group, or Sponsor’s employees, officers and directors, Sponsor’s advertising, promotion and fulfillment agencies, legal advisors, and the immediate family members (parents or spouse) and persons living in the same household of such persons (whether related or not), are not eligible to participate in the Contest.

How to enter: Entrants must complete an official entry form and submit the form to SMART529 WV Teachers’ Contest, PO Box 11136, Charleston, WV 25339. Entries must be postmarked by 11:59 pm ET February 28, 2020. Only the person entering the SMART529 WV Teachers’ Contest (“Contest”) is eligible to win. No substitutes. Only one entry per person and only one person is allowed on the entry form.

Entrants may go to SMART529.com to download an entry form or pick up an entry form at a SMART529 event table located at various events throughout the state. You may also call 1-866-574-3542 and request that an entry form be sent to you. The entry form must be completed with entrant’s address, phone number, e-mail address, and signature. The form must also include the name of the entrant’s school, principal’s name, grade level taught, and school district along with the answer to the question “How have you/will you use the SMART529 When I Grow Up Essay Contest to emphasize the importance of higher education to your students?” Answers must be completed in 500 words or less.

Prize: The Contest prize is $2,500 cash. Dollar amounts are expressed in U.S. currency. Prize is non-transferable and no prize substitutions are allowed except by Sponsor, in its sole discretion. The prize will be awarded no later than September 30, 2020.

Sponsor: The sponsor of this Contest is the SMART529 Program, The West Virginia College Prepaid Tuition and Savings Program, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, WV, 25305 (together with its affiliates and subsidiaries, “Sponsor”). Sponsor reserves the right to change, alter, or amend these Official Rules or to alter, modify, or terminate the Contest, as necessary in its sole discretion, to ensure the fair administration of the Contest or to comply with applicable law.

General Terms and Conditions: Entry and participation in the SMART529 WV Teachers’ Contest constitutes an entrant’s full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. By participating in this Contest, entrants agree that the Sponsor, Hartford Life Funds, its shareholders, agents and representatives; advertising, promotion, and fulfillment agencies; and legal and other advisors are not responsible or liable for, and shall be released and held harmless from: i.) cancellation or disruption of the Contest; ii.) any printing of typographical errors in any materials associated with the Contest; and iii.) any and all losses, damages, rights, claims, and actions of any kind in connection with or resulting from participation in the Contest, acceptance, possession, or use/misuse of any prize, including without limitation, personal injury, death, and property damage, and claims based on publicity rights, defamation, or invasion of privacy. Unlawful, unintelligible, illegible, obscene, indecent or incomplete entries will be disqualified. The Sponsor reserves the right to scrutinize all entries for these requirements prior to entry in the Contest.

Sponsor and its agents are not responsible for entries that are late, stolen, garbled/jumbled, corrupted, misdirected, incomplete or illegible.

All entries become Sponsor’s sole property and may be included in promotional materials using the entrant’s first name and hometown.

Winner Selection: One winner will be selected by a panel of judges. Judges will make their selection from fully completed entry forms. Entries will be judged on creativity and originality of content. All judges’ decisions will be final. The entrant chosen by the judges will be deemed the official winner providing he or she meets the following requirements: 1.) Submitted a completed official entry form; 2.) Meets all eligibility requirements stated in these Official Rules.

If these conditions are not met, the prize will not be awarded. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. If the Sponsor is unable, after making a reasonable effort, to contact the winner, that winner will forfeit the prize and no prize will be awarded to that winner.

Odds of Winning: The odds of winning depend on the total number of entries received.

Notification of Winner: The winner and the winner’s school principal will be notified by letter no later than September 1, 2020. Winner will be invited to attend a press conference held on or before September 30, 2020. If the winner is unable to attend the press conference, the prize will be mailed within the next 10 business days.

Winner’s full name and likeness will be posted on www.SMART529.com, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and listed, along with their elementary school name in a Press Announcement.

ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND/OR LOCAL TAXES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WINNER. The Sponsor is not responsible for any selection procedures, notifications or other communications that are late, lost, stolen, misdirected, non-deliverable or illegible due to any reason whatsoever. All decisions of the judges (officials representing The Hartford, The Manahan Group and/or the West Virginia State Treasurer’s Office) with regard to this Promotion are final and binding in all respects. 1099 forms are issued to the account owner for prizes over $600.