

Voya Honors New London, Minnesota, Teachers with First-Place Unsung Heroes Program Award
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“Tomorrow’s Heroes” provides opportunity for high school students to pursue emergency medical technician career path after graduation

Voya Financial, Inc. (NYSE: VOYA), a leading provider of retirement plans for educators, announced today that Chad Powers and Roxanne Schmiesing, two teachers at New London-Spicer High School in New London, Minnesota, have won the first-place grant award in the company’s annual [Voya Unsung Heroes](#) program.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here:
<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20181008005447/en/>



Kevin Acquard, principal of New London-Spicer High School, along with Chad Powers and Roxanne Schmiesing, Voya's 2018 Unsung Heroes program first place winners, stand with Cherie Farinacci and Debbie Vichot, regional vice presidents, Tax-Exempt Markets for Voya Financial with the \$27,000 grant award. (Photo: Business Wire)

Through this effort, Voya awards \$2,000 grants to 100 K-12 educators across the country each year to support their innovative and creative teaching ideas. Voya also selects three top winners to receive additional funds. In its 20-plus years, the program has awarded over \$5 million in grants to roughly 2,000 educators across the U.S.

As the first-place winners, Powers and Schmiesing will receive \$25,000 in addition to the \$2,000 grant, bringing the total financial award to \$27,000. This money

will be used to help bring “Tomorrow’s Heroes” to life at New London-Spicer High School.

“At Voya, we are focused on making a difference as we serve our clients and customers, and we’re thrilled to recognize our nation’s teachers who go above and beyond to inspire today’s students,” said Heather Lavallee, president of Tax-Exempt Markets at Voya Financial. “For more than 20 years, our Unsung Heroes program has empowered educators like Chad and Roxanne to bring their innovative ideas to life, and we are honored to recognize them both as our 2018 first-place winners.”

Powers and Schmiesing’s innovative teaching idea, “Tomorrow’s Heroes,” focuses on creating an elective emergency medical technician (EMT) class for the students at New London-Spicer High School, along with CPR course offerings at the middle-school level. Students involved in the project will experience hands-on practice at volunteer or “paid-on-call” departments and will partake in certification tests to be registered as first responders. In addition to gaining medical and technical education experience, students will develop proficiencies in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). This experience will provide students with an opportunity to serve their local community and beyond.

“Our faculty works hard to provide unique educational opportunities that are relevant to our students,” said

Kevin Acquard, principal of New London-Spicer High School. "This class model will allow our students to experience some of the medical course rigor before committing to a medical program. In addition, those that may decide to pursue an EMT licensure will also be provided with a competitive edge."

With the Voya grant, Powers and Schmiesing plan to purchase necessary materials and equipment, including training aids, dummies and other materials needed to prepare students for situations they will face in emergency medicine.

To learn more about this year's winning projects, as well as those from previous years, visit the Unsung Heroes website at Voya.com/UnsungHeroes. Applications for the 2019 Voya Unsung Heroes awards are currently being accepted through the website until April 30, 2019.

Unsung Heroes is part of [Voya's broader efforts to empower teachers](#) to become leaders by promoting the teaching career, recognizing high-achieving accomplishments, providing training opportunities and offering financial support to achieve their goals.

About Voya Financial®

Voya Financial, Inc. (NYSE: VOYA), helps Americans plan, invest and protect their savings — to get ready to retire better. Serving the financial needs of approximately 14.3 million individual and institutional customers in the United States, Voya is a *Fortune 500* company that had \$8.6 billion in revenue in 2017. The company had \$528 billion in total assets under management and administration as of June 30, 2018. With a clear mission to make a secure financial future possible — one person, one family, one institution at a time — Voya's vision is to be America's Retirement Company®. Certified as a "Great Place to Work" by the Great Place to Work® Institute, Voya is equally committed to conducting business in a way that is socially, environmentally, economically and ethically responsible. Voya has been recognized as one of the 2018 World's Most Ethical Companies® by the Ethisphere Institute; one of the 2018 World's Most Admired Companies by *Fortune* magazine; as a member of the Bloomberg Gender Equality Index; and as a "Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion" on the Disability Equality Index by Disability:IN. For more information, visit voya.com. Follow Voya Financial on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and Twitter [@Voya](#).

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