**America’s Homecoming Queen Scholarship**

From Counselor Talk, November 2017:

It is legit!  Our homecoming queen competed last year and won the whole thing. I’ve had others compete before as well. Kerri Hanneken , Lewis Cass High SchoolWe actually had a student participate in this program for Indiana. I'm not sure what type of prize she won, but we recognized her at our senior awards program last year. I think the participants get a scholarship based on where they fall in the judging. Interesting... ~ Kim Kile, Director of School Counseling, Greenfield-Central High School

It seems like a “scam”. You have to pay $30 and it’s a $1 per vote for your family to vote for you. What you have to put in, is not worth what you would get out. Megan Workinger

We sent a girl to this a couple of years ago, and she was not super thrilled with the program. I really felt bad, as I was the one who brought this opportunity to her attention. She felt it was more of a beauty pageant than anything. The contestants results are also heavily determined through online voting. So the winners tend to come from larger districts or through mass marketing.

Scholarships are only awarded to the finalist of each state, and that amount is determined on how they place at Nationals. The website does not reveal how much is awarded to each place, but I would assume a majority of them would be less than $1000. The students' families would probably spend much more than that, just on food, lodging and travel to the event site.  ***Eric R. Ressler***
Counselor Dept. Head, Michigan City High School

I went to the pageant last year to watch one of our students compete. Eric is correct on how it worked last year and I decided I was not going to promote it with any kind of passion anymore. There were only about 8 girls from the entire state of Indiana and they combined Indiana and Kentucky girls into one event. Then, only scholarship money was awarded based on performance at Nationals. So, these girls were buying dresses and competing for essentially nothing but the experience unless they did very well and competed at and traveled to two different pageants. It was held in Louisville Kentucky last year, so that was a haul for our family. Two years ago, we had a young woman win the state competition too and she got a pretty crown and bragging rights, but that was it.

They changed the entire format this year. There will be no standard pageant. They are doing the $30 membership fee and then friends and family vote on the candidate of their choosing for $1 per vote. So, it is essentially a popularity contest and how well the candidate can recruit people to donate. I gave the info to our football homecoming queen and told her to do what she wanted with it, but I wasn't encouraging her participation.

I love pageants and my aunt was Miss Missouri and competed in Miss America, so I am definitely not a hater on pageants. But, I believe they should be about promoting a woman's intellect and talents, so if there is no interview then it isn't a pageant to me. Terra Query, Western Boone