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Evan Avila, UMBC Student, Receives 2018 iOme Challenge Award

WASHINGTON DC, May 29, 2018 – The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) is pleased to announce Evan Avila, a student at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, has been selected as the winner of the 2018 *iOme Challenge* competition.

The iOme (I OWE ME) Challenge is a national competition operated by WISER to raise awareness among college students about the impact of financial security in retirement on the social and economic well-being of our society. Students from across the country respond to the annual iOme Challenge question in the form of a policy and research paper and a promotional video. A blue ribbon panel judges the submissions and selects the winning team.

This year, students were asked to imagine that they have been invited by Congress to join a Special Bipartisan Task Force to address the nation’s growing retirement crisis. Their task was to develop ideas and solutions for increasing retirement savings opportunities for millennials.

Evan’s essay, *Rethinking Millennial Retirement: Policy Recommendations for a Gig Economy*, “demonstrated great policy depth, a keen understanding of the challenges millennials face, and creativity in devising solutions that are achievable for this age cohort” said David Wegge, Interim Dean of Schneider School of Business and Economics, St. Norbert College, one of the founders of the competition and a member of the judging panel.

Cindy Hounsell, President of *Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement*, sponsor of the competition said, “We are impressed by Mr. Avila’s response to the more complicated challenges and deterrents millennials face in preparing for their future retirement. We look forward to his presentation and policy discussion at our upcoming forum.”

As the winner, Mr. Avila will present his paper at a forum on Capitol Hill and have an opportunity to discuss it with public policymakers. The faculty advisor for the project, Professor Douglas J. Lamdin, Department of Economics, UMBC will also attend and participate in the panel. The forum, **The Millennial Perspective: An Intergenerational Discussion on Retirement Solutions** will be held on June 20, 2018. The forum is hosted by WISER with support from ACLI and the American Retirement Association. A keynote speaker, panels of experts and congressional staff leaders will also discuss current issues and legislative proposals. A reception will follow honoring the iOme Challenge winner.

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The Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement is a non-profit founded in 1996 and is dedicated to the education and advocacy that will improve long-term financial quality of life for women. As the only organization to focus exclusively on the unique financial challenges that women face, WISER supports women’s opportunities to secure adequate retirement income through research, workshops and partnerships. www.wiserwomen.org