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CONTACT: Sarah VanLanduyt
sarah@artsjoco.org
913-894-2720

ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY NAMES 2016 SHOOTING STARS PROGRAM FINALISTS

OVERLAND PARK, KS – November 20, 2015 – The Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC) announces 118 finalists have been nominated for the 2016 Shooting Stars Awards. The Shooting Stars Program honors Johnson County high school students for achievement in the literary, performing and visual arts through recognition and college scholarships. Shooting Stars award recipients will be announced at the 19th annual Shooting Stars Gala at Johnson County Community College on Sunday, April 3, 2016.

“This special recognition program was created in 1997 by former ACJC chairman Bob Endres,” said Sarah VanLanduyt, ACJC Executive Director. “Bob’s vision was to create a program that celebrated young Johnson County artists for their artistic excellence in high school. Only the best of the best high school artists are chosen to participate in the Shooting Stars Program.”

Since its founding, the Shooting Stars program has awarded more than \$200,000 in college scholarships and almost \$65,000 in teacher honorariums. At the Shooting Stars Gala on April 3, 2016, nine first place scholarships of \$1,400 each, nine second place scholarships of \$700 each and nine teacher honorariums of \$350 each will be awarded. The program is supported by Johnson County and area foundations, corporations and individual donors.

Students are nominated by their Arts teachers for this recognition. Arts teachers from schools throughout Johnson County are invited to nominate two students each year. Students who live in Johnson County but attend school outside of the county also may be nominated by their Arts teachers.

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To participate in Shooting Stars, students must meet these criteria:

- > be in the 12th grade and will graduate in the spring;
- > live in Johnson County, Kansas;
- > be nominated by an Arts teacher from their high school, and submit an application.

Nominations were accepted from October 12 – 23 and applications from October 12 – 26, 2015.

After being selected as a finalist, the high school seniors will audition or submit a portfolio of work for review by independent judges in the following categories.

Literature (11 finalists)

Photography (13 finalists)

Production and Design (6 finalists)

Theatre Performance (18 finalists)

Strings (11 finalists)

Two-Dimensional Art (22 finalists)

Three-Dimensional Art (11 finalists)

Voice Classical (13 finalists) and

Winds and Percussion (13 finalists)

“Today, Shooting Stars not only celebrates the arts but is also an acknowledgement of the role the arts play in our future workforce,” said Abby Beckloff, President of the Arts Council of Johnson County Board of Directors. “Adding the arts into the 21st century skills mix means adding creativity, ingenuity, and perspective to science, technology, engineering and math careers for the future. Many of our Shooting Stars scholarship recipients and finalists plan to pursue studies and careers in the arts; even if that changes over time and these budding artists pursue other paths, their participation in the arts makes them uniquely qualified to contribute to wide variety of future endeavors,” Beckloff continued.

“Many Shooting Stars Finalists excel in science, technology, engineering, arts and math,” added Sarah VanLanduyt, Arts Council of Johnson County Executive Director. “It’s not uncommon for them to major in both the visual arts and pre-med or music and engineering. The judges say that selecting the scholarship recipients is a challenging task because of the high-caliber of talent expressed by each of the nominees.”



2016 Shooting Stars Program Finalists, Nominating Teacher and Schools

Literature

Cory Bestwick nominated by Heather Tow, Olathe East HS
Maya Bluitt nominated by Dylan Carter, Shawnee Mission West HS
Stephanie Meyers nominated by Maureen Davis, Blue Valley HS
Kaitlyn O'Neal nominated by Molly Runde, Olathe North HS
Shelby Otte nominated by Vicki Kohl, Olathe South HS
Alexandria Pasquale nominated by Phillip Hamilton, De Soto HS
Kameron Ptasnik nominated by Jessica Skoglund, Olathe Northwest HS
Margaret Russo nominated by Susan Whitfield, Blue Valley North HS
David Shute nominated by Kelly Peterson Miranda, Gardner-Edgerton HS
Emily Wilkinson nominated by Lindsey McFall, Shawnee Mission South HS
Kayla Wiltfong nominated by Amy Andersen, Shawnee Mission East HS

Photography

Jenna Fackrell nominated by Pat St. Louis, Shawnee Mission South HS
Sarah Gabel nominated by Carla Roberts, Olathe South HS
Alexandra GillamCrorkin nominated by Mark Mosier, Blue Valley HS
Keely Grosvenor nominated by Aimee Price, Blue Valley West HS
Jack Hatzfeld nominated by Hattie Gallagher, Olathe Northwest HS
Elizabeth Hicks nominated by Melissa Sellers, Olathe East HS
Vincent Lowry nominated by Terra Henderson, Saint James Academy
Mallorie McBride nominated by Brian Pollack, Blue Valley Northwest HS
Mollie Mytinger nominated by Adam Finkelston, Shawnee Mission East HS
Rebecca Renton nominated by Alison Crane, Blue Valley North HS
Rian Stallbaumer nominated by Greg Schieszer, Shawnee Mission West HS
Grant Swank nominated by Danielle Williams, Maranatha Academy
Reilly Zink nominated by Kathleen Bock, Olathe North HS



Production & Design

Grant Cole nominated by Chris Palmer, Shawnee Mission North HS

Kelly Edwards nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North, HS

Heather Jackson nominated by Jeremy Riggs, Olathe South HS

Mona Jahani nominated by Mark Swezey, Shawnee Mission South HS

Connor Johnston nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Leah O'Connor nominated by Tom DeFeo, Shawnee Mission East HS

Strings

Orunima Chakraborti nominated by Stephen Phalp, Blue Valley North HS

Adeline Chang nominated by Cecily Mahan, Olathe North HS

Brandon Grothen nominated by Amy Fear, Blue Valley HS

Tanner Leon nominated by Greg Ferguson, Olathe South HS

Tamieka Melancon nominated by Joel Martin, Olathe Northwest HS

Elena Nanneman nominated by Curtis Mulvenon, Shawnee Mission West HS

Caroline Olson nominated by Jonathan Lane, Shawnee Mission East HS

Mitchell Reilly nominated by Adam Keda, Blue Valley Southwest HS

Emily Shehi nominated by Brigid Mayer, Olathe East HS

Alexa Wilden nominated by Brian Scott, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Isaac Witte nominated by Adam Keda, Blue Valley West HS

Theatre Performance

Elsa Bernauer nominated by Brian Cappello, Shawnee Mission East HS

Alexandra Carroll nominated by Robin Murphy, Olathe Northwest HS

Rebecca Carroll nominated by Keli Rodgers, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS

Rachel Field nominated by Mark Swezey, Shawnee Mission South HS

Tasia Jewel nominated by Steve Landes, Blue Valley Northwest HS

Lance Jewett nominated by Marsha Moeller, Blue Valley HS

Maggie Martin nominated by Kim Spillman, Saint Thomas Aquinas

Kori Martiny nominated by Sydney Baumgart, Shawnee Mission North HS

Tristan Pflumm nominated by Alli Jordan, Saint James Academy



Michael Polelyev nominated by Ted Hanlon, Maranatha Academy

Alexis Pudvan nominated by Max Brown, Blue Valley North HS

Andrea Strickler nominated by David Hastings, Olathe South HS

Lauren Taylor nominated by Edward Shafer, Olathe East HS

Rex Templin nominated by Jason Hagg, De Soto HS

Trevor Thaelke nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Siera Thompson nominated by Jon Copeland, Mill Valley HS

Samantha Walker nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North HS

Erin Zipse nominated by Laurie VanderPol, Blue Valley West HS

Three-Dimensional Art

Paige Bennett nominated by Brad Reinking, Spring Hill HS

Ashley Bogdan nominated by Tim Barnes, Olathe Northwest HS

Mariah Case nominated by Jennifer Dixon-Perkins, Olathe South HS

Allison Eaton nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto HS

Juliana Gogol nominated by Adam Finkelston, Shawnee Mission East HS

Emily LaRocco nominated by Sherri Hanna, Olathe East HS

Melia Ortiz nominated by Hollie Rice, Olathe North HS

Payton Pierce nominated by John Butcher, Blue Valley Northwest HS

Jason Wang nominated by David Hunt, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS

Jenna Wilson nominated by Jean Lockhart, Shawnee Mission West HS

Kelly Wood nominated by Michael Johnston, Blue Valley HS

Two-Dimensional Art

Emma Arnold nominated by Luan Taylor, Shawnee Mission West HS

Madison Bender nominated by Hollie Rice, Olathe North HS

Alexandra Berkowitz nominated by Kim Francis, Blue Valley HS

Brooke Bowlin nominated by Danielle Williams, Maranatha Academy

Ellen Johannah Cairns nominated by Abbey Thomas, Olathe Northwest HS

Kyle Carnes nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto HS

Sara Coble nominated by David Kalkman, Gardner-Edgerton HS



Francesco DiMare nominated by Connie Creek, Pembroke Hill Upper School

Jia Fu nominated by Tom Holland, Blue Valley North HS

Gretchen Gambill nominated by Erica Crist, Mill Valley HS

Lauren Gawlak nominated by Jen Dixon-Perkins, Olathe South HS

Lauren Hart nominated by Debra Waldorf, Blue Valley West HS

Mallory Iszard nominated by Chris LaValley, Blue Valley Northwest HS

Caroline Kalmus nominated by Terra Henderson, Saint James Academy

Grace L'Esperance nominated by Judy Frankovic, Saint Thomas Aquinas

Lisa Maeda nominated by Mallory Hilvitz, Barstow

Casey Mispagel nominated by Jennifer Hudson, Shawnee Mission South HS

Madison Rubalcava nominated by Theresa Wallerstedt, St. Teresa's Academy

Zachary Ruschill nominated by melissa Terryberry, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS

Hannah Scofield nominated by Adam Finkelston, Shawnee Mission East HS

Joshua Swiastyn nominated by Jill Rodick, Kansas City Christian

Ahna Valdez nominated by Lori Ludwig, Olathe East HS

Voice Classical

Anna Arends nominated by Marsha Moeller, Blue Valley HS

Alice Barnard nominated by Juli O'Mealey Simmons, Shawnee Mission North HS

Patrick Bessenbacher nominated by Samuel Anderson, Rockhurst HS

Natalie Boos nominated by Elise Peterson, Olathe South HS

Alden Bostwick nominated by Joe Heidesch, Saint Thomas Aquinas

Victoria Davlantes nominated by Jason Sickel, Blue Valley North HS

Emily Everson nominated by Mary Etta Copeland, De Soto HS

Hannah Habiger nominated by Garrett Epp, Olathe North HS

Clayton Henriksen nominated by Kimberly Modelski, Blue Valley West HS

Eli Huber nominated by Susan Scheibler, Olathe East HS

Abbie Lane nominated by Todd Burd, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Hadley Oehlert nominated by Pamela Williamson, Olathe Northwest HS

Allen Weinert nominated by Sheree Stoppel, Mill Valley HS



Winds & Percussion

Noah Bryan nominated by Chad Reed, Shawnee Mission North HS

Carson Christensen nominated by Jeff Smikahl, Olathe East HS

Clark Elford nominated by Adam Lundine, Blue Valley Northwest HS

Carley Eschliman nominated by Chad Coughlin, Olathe South HS

Parker Kremeier nominated by Jeffrey Bishop, Shawnee Mission Northwest HS

Evan Norkey nominated by Cheryl Lee, Blue Valley West HS

Joseph Quigley nominated by Will Biggs, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Brandon Rathburn nominated by Edward Protzman, Blue Valley Southwest HS

Steven Schmoll nominated by Daniel Freeman, Blue Valley North HS

Sophie Solomonson nominated by Robert Davis, Olathe Northwest HS

Jaycie Thaemert nominated by Matt Bradford, De Soto HS

Lauren Walbert nominated by Bill Thomas, Shawnee Mission West HS

Noah Zoller nominated by Justin Love, Olathe North HS

About the Arts Council of Johnson County:

The Arts Council of Johnson County is dedicated to the enrichment of the community through the Arts. By focusing on the Arts as an effective economic development tool to foster a strong regional identity, ACJC advocates for policies that strengthen the Arts in Johnson County and the metropolitan area; champions Arts learning opportunities for all ages; amplifies Johnson County's voice in the broader metropolitan area Arts discussions; and contributes to the growth of the Arts within the 21 municipalities of Johnson County. The ACJC works to build a creative culture, transforming the region into a vibrant, thriving area desirable to residents, new businesses, visitors and tourists. Learn more at www.artsjoco.org.

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