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ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY ANNOUNCES 2019 SHOOTING STARS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

*18 High School Seniors Receive College Scholarships For Excellence in the Literary, Performing
and Visual Arts*

98 High School Seniors Nominated in Nine Categories

OVERLAND PARK, KS – April 7, 2019 – The Arts Council of Johnson County announced 18 scholarship recipients at the 2019 Shooting Stars Gala on Sunday, April 7 at Johnson County Community College. This 22nd annual Shooting Stars Gala honored 98 Johnson County high school seniors for achievement in the literary, performing and visual arts through recognition and college scholarships.

In November, the Arts Council announced the 98 finalists nominated for 2019 awards. This special recognition program was created in 1997 by former Arts Council of Johnson County chairman Bob Endres. 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.

"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 \$400,000 in college scholarships and \$65,000 in teacher honorariums. At the Shooting Stars Gala on April 7, 2019, 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. Area universities and colleges including Johnson County Community College, the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance and Kansas City Art Institute are key program collaborators as well as local arts educators.

Dr. Mary E. Davidson was Honorary Chair for the event. "I am both delighted and honored to be the 2019 Honorary Chair for the Shooting Stars Recognition, Scholarship and Awards Program," said Dr. Davidson during her remarks at the Gala. "In being chosen for your artistic talent and your scholarship, I would tell you that you are the best of the best. You can be very proud of this singular honor."

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 may be nominated by their Arts teachers. To participate in Shooting Stars, students must meet these criteria: live in Johnson County, Kansas; be in the 12th grade and will graduate in the spring; be nominated by an Arts teacher from their high school, and submit an application. Nominations were accepted in October and finalists were named in November. The finalists auditioned or submitted a portfolio of work for review by independent judges in the following categories.

Literature (7 finalists)

Photography (12 finalists)

Production and Design (8 finalists)

Strings (6 finalists)

Theatre Performance (14 finalists)

Three-Dimensional Art (9 finalists)

Two-Dimensional Art (18 finalists)

Voice Classical (10 finalists) and

Winds and Percussion (12 finalists)

"We live in a very analytical world, but creativity needs to be embraced more than ever. We wouldn't have innovators like Elon Musk or the late Steve Jobs without heightened creativity. Embarking on a professional career in the arts requires a degree of boldness and Shooting Stars recognizes young artists for just that! Bold creativity!" said Brian Williams, President of the Arts Council of Johnson County Board of Directors.

2019 Shooting Stars Scholarship Recipients

Literature

- 1) Alice Wu, Blue Valley North High School nominated by Kat Buchanan
- 2) Mellenie Redick, Maranatha Academy nominated by Dawn Wilcox

Teacher award presented to Kat Buchanan, Blue Valley North HS

Photography

- 1) Elianna Oliver, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Sarah McKee
- 2) Abigail Roberts, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Kimberly Ruttan

Teacher award presented to Sarah McKee, Blue Valley Southwest HS

Production and Design

- 1) Emily Martin, Olathe North High School nominated by Dustin Pence
- 2) Bryanna Conde, Shawnee Mission North High School by Chris Palmer

Teacher award presented to Dustin Pence, Olathe North HS

Strings

- 1) Jordan Proctor, Gardner-Edgerton High School nominated by Brian Scott
- 2) Catherine Steinacker, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Jeffrey Bishop

Teacher award presented to Brian Scott, Gardner-Edgerton HS

Theatre Performance

- 1) Jordan DeLeon, Olathe South High School nominated by David Hastings
- 2) Devyn Trondson, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Jason Coats

Teacher award presented to David Hastings, Olathe South HS

Three-Dimensional Art

- 1) Kysn Paepke, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Lisa Hirsch
- 2) Rylee Jorgensen, Olathe West High School nominated by Scott Ledbetter

Teacher award presented to Lisa Hirsch, Olathe Northwest HS

Two-Dimensional Art

- 1) Allison Park, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Chris LaValley

2) Bennett Junkins, Olathe South High School nominated by Roger Messersmith
Teacher award presented to Chris LaValley, Blue Valley Northwest HS

Voice Classical

1) Sarah Slightom, Olathe North High School nominated by Garrett Epp
2) Ryan Henn, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Pamela Williamson
Teacher award presented to Garrett Epp, Olathe North HS

Winds and Percussion

1) Nicholas Velicer, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Steve Adams
2) Evan Kappelman, Olathe East High School nominated by Jeff Smikahl
Teacher award presented to Steve Adams, Shawnee Mission South HS

About the Shooting Stars Program:

The Shooting Stars Recognition, Scholarship & Awards Program was created in 1997, by former Arts Council of Johnson County chairman Bob Endres. His 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. Students are nominated by their Arts teachers each year, and independent judges select the scholarship recipients. The full list of the 108 finalist nominees follows at the end of this release.

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.

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2019 Shooting Stars Program Finalists, Nominating Teacher and Schools

Literature

Alice Wu nominated by Kat Buchanan, Blue Valley North High School
Larissa Gregory nominated by Phillip Hamilton, De Soto High School
Mellenie Redick nominated by Dawn Wilcox, Maranatha Academy
Elizabeth Joseph nominated by Peter Shull, Mill Valley High School
MJ Ferguson nominated by Deirdre Zongker, Olathe North High School
Angela Lombardino nominated by Amy Andersen, Shawnee Mission East High School
Miah Clark nominated by Caroline Ewing, Shawnee Mission South High School

Photography

Anna Krutz nominated by Alison Crane, Blue Valley North High School
Katie Henry nominated by Melanie Mikel, Blue Valley Northwest High School
Elianna Oliver nominated by Sarah McKee, Blue Valley Southwest High School
Grace Dickerson nominated by Carla Roberts, Blue Valley West High School
Emma Leonard nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School
Kendall Rogers nominated by Michael Pesselato, Notre Dame de Sion High School
Esther Rose nominated by Melissa Sellers, Olathe East High School
Adam Peet nominated by Kathleen Bock, Olathe North High School
Megan Sauer nominated by Hattie Rolston, Olathe Northwest High School
Lindsay Goodmon nominated by Melinda Heaton, Shawnee Mission East High School
Abigail Roberts nominated by Kimberly Ruttan, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School
Annie Barry nominated by Annie Barry, Shawnee Mission South High School

Production & Design

Cody Burgoon nominated by Garry Goddard, Olathe East High School
Mallori Kabel nominated by Maureen Davis, Blue Valley High School
Christen Seyl nominated by Dan Schmidt, Blue Valley Southwest High School
Breanna Shelton nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton High School
Emily Martin nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North High School
Blake Peery nominated by Tom Defeo, Shawnee Mission East High School

Bryanna Conde nominated by Chris Palmer, Shawnee Mission North High School

Ashley Hays nominated by Ashley Hays, Shawnee Mission South High School

Strings

Jordan Proctor nominated by Brian Scott, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Caroline Shipley nominated by Greg Ferguson, Olathe South High School

William Wei nominated by Stephen Phalp, Blue Valley North High School

Allison Siegwald nominated by Andrew Book, Blue Valley West High School

Stuart Hanson nominated by Adam Keda, Shawnee Mission East High School

Catherine Steinacker nominated by Jeffrey Bishop, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Theatre Performance

Maddie Charles nominated by Kim Spillman, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

Zoey Johnson nominated by Edward Shafer, Olathe East High School

Ashley Strella nominated by Dustin Pence, Olathe North High School

Braden Funk nominated by Maureen Davis, Blue Valley High School

Kaitlin Duncan nominated by Dan Freeman, Blue Valley North High School

Alexandra Marshall nominated by Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd, De Soto High School

Logan Peralez nominated by Jeff Lady, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Noah Smith nominated by Jon Copeland, Mill Valley High School

Avery Williamson nominated by Robin Murphy, Olathe Northwest High School

Jordan DeLeon nominated by David Hastings, Olathe South High School

Grace Hawkins nominated by Alisha Morris, Olathe West High School

Sophia Egan nominated by Brian Cappello, Shawnee Mission East High School

Devyn Trondson nominated by Jason Coats, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Leah Lissauer nominated by Mark Swezey, Shawnee Mission South High School

Three Dimension Art

Sophia Maher nominated by Carly Kimbrough, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Samantha McCoy nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School
Kara Groshong nominated by Barb McCormick, Gardner-Edgerton High School
Kysn Paepke nominated by Lisa Hirsch, Olathe Northwest High School
Rylee Jorgensen nominated by Scott Ledbetter, Olathe West High School
Carolyn Simpson nominated by Carolyn Simpson, Shawnee Mission East High School
Jillian Macek nominated by David Hunt, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School
Katherine Horner nominated by Cortney Dougherty, Shawnee Mission South High School
Grace Coleman nominated by Lisa Dibble, St. Teresa's Academy

Two Dimensional Art

Keaton Buchert nominated by Mark Mosier, Blue Valley High School
Julia Marks nominated by Tom Holland, Blue Valley North High School
Allison Park nominated by Chris LaValley, Blue Valley Northwest High School
Nada Bayazid nominated by Emily Patterson, Blue Valley Southwest High School
Lucy Sun nominated by Debra Waldorf, Blue Valley West High School
Abigail Smith nominated by Tim Mispagel, De Soto High School
Long Vo nominated by Toni Britt, Gardner-Edgerton High School
Allen Vilchis nominated by Erica Crist, Mill Valley High School
Olivia Weise nominated by Michael Pesselato, Notre Dame de Sion High School
Mackenzie Klaus nominated by Abbey Thomas, Olathe Northwest High School
Bennett Junkins nominated by Bennett Junkins, Olathe South High School
Erin Bailey nominated by Connie Creek, Pembroke Hill Upper School
Abigail Meyer nominated by Anna Johnson, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School
Lily Murray nominated by Adam Finkelston, Shawnee Mission East High School
Zoie Mehl nominated by Stephanie Dalley, Shawnee Mission North High School
Lauren Macek nominated by Melissa Terryberry, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School
Fernanda Fregozo nominated by Fernanda Torres, Shawnee Mission South High School
Evi Heinen nominated by Abby Stallbaumer, Spring Hill High School
Karen Liu nominated by Andrea Hink, Olathe East High School

Voice Classical

Dmitry Tyshlek nominated by Beth Richey-Sullivan, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Ryan Henn nominated by Pamela Williamson, Olathe Northwest High School

Alyssa Marks nominated by Derek Cross, Shawnee Mission West High School

Luke Oldroyd nominated by Marsha Moeller, Blue Valley High School

Olivia Schmidt nominated by Jason Sickel, Blue Valley North High School

Cap Kelly nominated by Kimberly Modelski, Blue Valley West High School

Riley Buck nominated by Kelli Baker, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Sarah Slightom nominated by Garrett Epp, Olathe North High School

Pete Elbert nominated by Sam Anderson, Rockhurst High School

McKenna Neef nominated by Joe Heidesch, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

Ava Hauser nominated by Cassie Banion, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School

Winds & Percussion

Tyler Aho nominated by Laura Bock, Blue Valley Southwest High School

Maddie Cain nominated by Patrick McCarty, Olathe North High School

Evelyn Cheung nominated by Evelyn Cheung, Blue Valley West High School

Maxwell Sahhar nominated by Maxwell Sahhar, Olathe Northwest High School

Katherine Long nominated by Will Biggs, Gardner-Edgerton High School

Jenna Stokes nominated by Chad Coughlin, Olathe South High School

Nicholas Velicer nominated by Steve Adams, Shawnee Mission South High School

Hannah Thurlby nominated by Adam Lundine, Blue Valley Northwest High School

Evan Kappelman nominated by Jeff Smikahl, Olathe East High School

Daniel Smith nominated by Matt Bradford, De Soto High School

Benjamin Crocker nominated by Ben Crocker, Blue Valley North High School

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