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ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY ANNOUNCES 2020 SHOOTING STARS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 18 High School Seniors Receive College Scholarships For Excellence in the Literary, Performing and Visual Arts 100 High School Seniors Nominated in Nine Categories

OVERLAND PARK, KS – May 19, 2020 – The Arts Council of Johnson County announced 18 scholarship recipients at the 2020 Virtual Shooting Stars Celebration on Sunday, May 17th. The Virtual Celebration was presented on the Arts Council of Johnson County’s [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsCouncilJohnsonCounty/) page and [youtube](https://youtu.be/K22_VciLTEs) channel. This 23rd annual Shooting Stars Gala honored 100 Johnson County high school seniors for achievement in the literary, performing and visual arts through recognition and college scholarships.

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.

“The virtual celebration wasn’t what we had originally planned,” shared ACJC Executive Director Sarah VanLanduyt. “But in a time when we are apart we couldn’t think of a better opportunity to use the arts to come together.”

Since its founding, the Shooting Stars program has awarded more than $400,000 in college scholarships and $65,000 in teacher honorariums. At the Virtual Shooting Stars Celebration on May 17, 2020, nine first place scholarships of $1,400 each, nine second place scholarships of $700 each and nine teacher honorariums of $350 each were 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.

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 (9 finalists)

Photography (11 finalists)

Production and Design (5 finalists)

Strings (5 finalists)

Theatre Performance (18 finalists)

Three-Dimensional Art (15 finalists)

Two-Dimensional Art (14 finalists)

Voice Classical (14 finalists)

and Winds and Percussion (9 finalists)

"The student artists celebrated in Shooting Stars are the future of leadership, innovation and exploration,” said Sarah VanLanduyt. “We know that no matter what career they pursue their arts education makes them uniquely capable and highly sought after for their creative problem solving skills no matter the professional field.”

2020 Shooting Stars Scholarship Recipients

Literature Kalie Hopkins 1st place De Soto High School nominated by Crystal Sinclair-King

Literature Elizabeth Yost 2nd place Olathe East High School nominated by Stacy Goddard

Photography Sophia Hammond 1st place Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Chandra Ramey Schiller

Photography Nicole Brinkley 2nd place Olathe North High School nominated by Kathy Ledbetter

Production & Design Jade Almsberger 1st place Olathe North High School nominated by Dustin Pence

Production & Design Zach Dulny 2nd place Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Jason Coats

Strings Vincent Hsiung 1st place Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Adam Keda

Strings William Jiang 2nd place Blue Valley High School nominated by Amy Fear

Theatre Performance Anna Paden 1st place Mill Valley High School nominated by Jon Copeland

Theatre Performance Ashlen Boresow 2nd place De Soto High School nominated by Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd

3D Visual Art Bryn Montry 1st place Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Jennifer Hensley

3D Visual Art Abigail Loats 2nd place Blue Valley High School nominated by Michael Johnston

2D Visual Art Nina Kulikov 1st place Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Jill Oliver

2D Visual Art Audrey Lu 2nd place Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Connie Creek

Voice Classical Madeline Friesen 1st place Blue Valley High School nominated by Marsha Moeller

Voice Classical Julia Edeal 2nd place Shawnee Mission West High School nominated by Derek Cross

Winds and Percussion Kat Mason 1st place Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Adam Lundine

Winds and Percussion Jessa Boutté 2nd place Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Laura Bock

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 100 finalist nominees follows at the end of this release.

About the Arts Council of Johnson County: The Arts Council of Johnson County enhances the quality of life in the Johnson County by strengthening the arts.

### 2020 Shooting Stars Program Finalists, Nominating Teacher and Schools ####

**Literature**

Aaliyah Buckner, Maranatha Academy nominated by Kjirsten Abkes

Ada Heller, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Ben Pabst

Hannah Holliday, Olathe South High School nominated by Heather Springer

Kalie Hopkins, De Soto High School nominated by Crystal Sinclair-King

Han Yun Park, Blue Valley North High School nominated by Jeremy Chugg

Paiton Stith, Olathe North High School nominated by Deirdre Zongker

Tina Talavera, Mill Valley High School nominated by Kristen Crosbie

Jackson Weaver, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Amy Andersen

Elizabeth Yost, Olathe East High School nominated by Stacy Goddard

**Photography**

Nicole Brinkley, Olathe North High School nominated by Kathy Ledbetter

Jetzel Chavira, Shawnee Mission West High School nominated by Greg Schieszer

Kate Christie, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Melanie Mikel

Sophia Hammond, Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Chandra Ramey Schiller

Summer Luna, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Kimberly Ruttan

Loren McQueeny, De Soto High School nominated by Tim Mispagel

Ashton Melton, Blue Valley High School nominated by Kristen Pickell

Gracie Olson, Olathe West High School nominated by Jenna Howe

Gracie Rodlund, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Sarah McKee

Sierra Smith, Olathe East High School nominated by Melissa Sellers

Sydni William, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Adam Finkelston

**Production & Design**

Jade Almsberger, Olathe North High School nominated by Dustin Pence

Megan DeVolder, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Tom DeFeo

Zach Dulny, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by Jason Coats

Lanie Hochenauer, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Mark Swezey

Gaven Johnson, Gardner Edgerton High School nominated by Jeff Cramer

**Strings**

Connor Ampleman, Shawnee Mission West High School nominated by Curtis Mulvenon

Allen Church, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Allen Church

Benjamin Holcomb, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Jonathan Wiebe

Vincent Hsiung, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Adam Keda

William Jiang, Blue Valley High School nominated by Amy Fear

**Theatre Performance (including voice)**

Ashlen Boresow, De Soto High School nominated by Sarah Cronkleton-Kidd

Lucy Brock, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Brian Cappello

Dominic DeCicco, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Dan Schmidt

Dalton Devoe, Olathe North High School nominated by Dustin Pence

LyLena Estabine, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Amy Hastings

Amy Gassel, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School nominated by Kim Spillman

Jack Green, Olathe East High School nominated by Edward Shafer

Matthew Grigoratos, Blue Valley High School nominated by Maureen Davis

Anna Hastings, Olathe South High School nominated by David Tate Hastings

Brendan Kiefer, Rockhurst High School nominated by Ashlea Christopher

Logan Krauskopf, Gardner Edgerton High School nominated by Jeff Cramer

Avery McLaughlin, Blue Valley West High School nominated by Laurie VanderPol

Payton Meyer, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Beth Richey-Sullivan

Alexa Morgan, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Mark Swezey

Erin Morgan, Shawnee Mission North High School nominated by Chris Palmer

Anna Paden, Mill Valley High School nominated by Jon Copeland

Johanna Quigley, Bishop Miege High School nominated by Elizabeth Nelson

Honor Torrance, Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Tracy Terstriep-Herber

**Three-Dimensional Art**

Emma Baety, Olathe North High School nominated by Alex Case

Sophie Barrett, Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Jason Lips

Adrianne Beatty, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Tim Barnes

Anaya Hansell, Gardner Edgerton High School nominated by Cindy Bicker

Abigail Loats, Blue Valley High School nominated by Michael Johnston

Ashlei Lovell, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Michele Foster-Lowman

Bryn Montry, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Jennifer Hensley

Kara Poge, Mill Valley High School nominated by Erica Crist

David Robertson, Olathe South High School nominated by Julie Weatherford

Ben Sallman, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Carly Kimbrough

Ellie Steere, Olathe West High School nominated by Scott Ledbetter

Kate Tickle, De Soto High School nominated by Tim Mispagel

Cindy Tran, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Cortney Dougherty

Logan Webb, Olathe East High School nominated by Lisa Holton

**Two-Dimensional Art**

John Chen, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Chris LaValley

Bill Cheng, Heritage Christian Academy nominated by Kristin Howard

Isaac Decker, Blue Valley North High School nominated by Tom Holland

Audrey Diggs, Shawnee Mission North High School nominated by Stephanie Dalley

Isabel Dory, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School nominated by melissa terryberry

River Hennick, Shawnee Mission East High School nominated by Adam Finkelston

Erica Hoelting, De Soto High School nominated by Tim Mispagel

Nina Kulikov, Shawnee Mission South High School nominated by Jill Oliver

Audrey Lu, Pembroke Hill Upper School nominated by Connie Creek

Sloane McKinney, Spring Hill High School nominated by Abby Stallbaumer

Megan Overbaugh, Mill Valley High School nominated by Jodi Ellis

Christopher Shields, Olathe East High School nominated by Lori Ludwig

Rachel Stander, Olathe South High School nominated by Roger Messersmith

Nicolette Toub, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Robert Putnam

**Voice Classical**

Kylee Brown, Olathe North High School nominated by Garrett Epp

Theresa Burg, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Pam Williamson

Nate Ciocca, Rockhurst High School nominated by Joshua Lawlor

Matt Crank, Saint Thomas Aquinas High School nominated by Joe Heidesch

Julia Edeal, Shawnee Mission West High School nominated by Derek Cross

Madeline Friesen, Blue Valley High School nominated by Marsha Moeller

Claire Kennard, De Soto High School nominated by Mindy Fry

Matthew Malcolm, Olathe East High School nominated by Baker Purdon

Lauren Miles, Blue Valley West High School nominated by Kimberly Modelski

Tessa Redding, Saint James Academy nominated by Jason Cole

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

Erin Smith, Gardner Edgerton High School nominated by Kelli Baker

Jadon Taylor, Mill Valley High School nominated by Jessie Reimer

**Winds & Percussion**

Cody Adams, De Soto High School nominated by Matt Bradford

Jessa Boutté, Blue Valley Southwest High School nominated by Laura Bock

Rebecca James, Olathe Northwest High School nominated by Robert Davis

Bryan Johnson, Olathe South High School nominated by Chad Coughlin

Kat Mason, Blue Valley Northwest High School nominated by Adam Lundine

Colby McArthur, Blue Valley West High School nominated by Cheryl Lee

Emma Mitchell, Olathe North High School nominated by Patrick McCarty

Kara Olander, Blue Valley North High School nominated by Daniel Freeman

Thomas Parnell, Shawnee Mission North High School nominated by Chad Reed

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