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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 Thoelke 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 Shereen 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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