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ARTS COUNCIL OF JOHNSON COUNTY NAMES 2019 SHOOTING STARS PROGRAM FINALISTS

OVERLAND PARK, KS – December 11, 2018 – The Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC) announces 101 finalists have been nominated for the 2019 Shooting Stars Awards. The Shooting Stars Program promotes the positive impact arts education has on our students by honoring student achievement in the literary, performing and visual arts, providing students with resources to help them achieve their creative career goals, awarding scholarships for college and supporting teachers with honorariums. Shooting Stars scholarship award recipients will be announced at the 22nd annual Shooting Stars Gala at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art and Yardley Hall, Johnson County Community College on Sunday, April 7, 2019.

“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.

Students are nominated by their Arts teachers for this recognition. Arts teachers from schools throughout Johnson County are invited to nominate 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 11 – 22, 2018 and applications from October 11 – 24, 2018. 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 (7 finalists)
Photography (12 finalists)
Production and Design (8 finalists)
Strings (6 finalists)
Theatre Performance (16 finalists)
Three-Dimensional Art (9 finalists)
Two-Dimensional Art (20 finalists)
Voice Classical (11 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.

“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 or performing arts and pre-med, architecture or engineering.
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**
- 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**
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
Morgan Wilcox nominated by Ted Hanlon, Maranatha Academy
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
Marcus Merritt nominated by Sydney Kohart, Shawnee Mission North 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
Ryan Middleton nominated by Catherine Bloomer, Olathe North 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

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 Marksz 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 Models, Blue Valley West High School
Riley Buck nominated by Kelli Baker, Gardner-Edgerton High School
Sarah Slichtom 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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