



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(St. Louis, Missouri – June 12, 2017) Missouri Courage Scholarship (MCS) is proud to announce the winners of our 2017 awards. Each year, MCS awards scholarships to high school seniors who demonstrate courage and take a stand for social justice. This year more than 180 students from 50 counties applied—a new record for MCS!

MCS awards three types of scholarships:

- **The Missouri Courage Award (MCA)** is awarded to high school seniors in Missouri who have demonstrated their commitment to work for change in their community that advances the lives of LGBTQ people or furthers other social justice causes.
- **The Rural Courage Award (RCA)** is intended for students residing in rural Missouri communities who meet the MCA scholarship qualifications.
- **The Trans Courage Award (TCA)** is intended for Missouri students who identify as transgender and who meet the MCA scholarship qualifications.

In addition to the above awards, this year MCS partnered with Pride St. Charles to award additional scholarships on behalf of their organization. We are thrilled to share the 2017 Courage Scholars:

**Ty Bears**, Rural Courage Award, West Nodaway High School, Elmo, MO

**Alyssa Ershen**, Pride St. Charles Award, St. Clair High School, St. Clair, MO

**Jasmine Gallegos**, Pride St. Charles Award, Troy Buchanan High School, Moscow Mills, MO

**Nathaniel Hartman**, Trans Courage Award, Hancock Place Senior High School, St. Louis, MO

**Garrett Orr**, Rural Courage Award, Doniphan High School, Doniphan, MO

**Zac Ruffolo**, Rural Courage Award, Boonville High School, Boonville, MO

**Samantha Salas**, Rural Courage Award, Monett High School, Monett, MO

**Amber Schneider**, Pride St. Charles Award, Winfield High School, Winfield, MO

**Courage Scholar**, Pride St. Charles Award, Orchard Farm High School, St. Charles, MO

**Olivia Stevens**, Missouri Courage Award, Hancock Place Senior High School, St. Louis, MO

**Alex Williams**, Trans Courage Award, Kirksville Senior High School, Kirksville, MO

Missouri Courage Scholarship is the first, and largest, state-wide LGBTQ scholarship organization in Missouri. Each year MCS acknowledges, affirms, and rewards students who demonstrate courage and take a stand for social justice. MCS is a 501c3 organization; all donations are tax deductible. Please visit our website at [www.courage-scholarship.org](http://www.courage-scholarship.org) for more information.

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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 2017

## COURAGE SCHOLARS

**TY BEARS**  
RURAL COURAGE AWARD  
From: Elmo, MO  
HS: West Nodaway High

**ALEX WILLIAMS**  
TRANS COURAGE AWARD  
From: Kirksville, MO  
HS: Kirksville Senior High

**AMBER SCHNEIDER**  
PRIDE ST. CHARLES AWARD  
From: Winfield, MO  
HS: Winfield High School

**JASMINE GALLEGOS**  
PRIDE ST. CHARLES AWARD  
From: Moscow Mills, MO  
HS: Troy Buchanan High

**NATHANIEL HARTMAN**  
TRANS COURAGE AWARD  
From: St. Louis, MO  
HS: Hancock Place Senior High

**COURAGE SCHOLAR**  
PRIDE ST. CHARLES AWARD  
From: St. Charles, MO  
HS: Orchard Farm High

**ZAC RUFFOLO**  
RURAL COURAGE AWARD  
From: Boonville, MO  
HS: Boonville High School

**SAMANTHA SALAS**  
RURAL COURAGE AWARD  
From: Monett, MO  
HS: Monett High School

**ALYSSA ERSHEN**  
PRIDE ST. CHARLES AWARD  
From: St. Clair, MO  
HS: St. Clair High School

**GARRETT ORR**  
RURAL COURAGE AWARD  
From: Doniphan, MO  
HS: Doniphan High School

**OLIVIA STEVENS**  
MISSOURI COURAGE AWARD  
From: St. Louis, MO  
HS: Hancock Place Senior High

**It takes COURAGE to go against the grain, to take a stand for equality, and live authentically in the face of adversity.**

**MISSION**  
Our mission is to acknowledge, affirm, and reward students who demonstrate courage and take a stand for social justice.



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