



MISSOURI COURAGE SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNIVERSARY EVENT WITH SPECIAL GUEST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Missouri Courage Scholarship Co-Chairs

Jacob Wilson: Jacob@Courage-Scholarship.org 515-313-3795

Geneviève Steidtmann: Genevieve@Courage-Scholarship.org 314-610-2826

(St. Louis, Missouri – June 17, 2016) **Missouri Courage Scholarship (MCS)** is excited to announce a special event on July 9th to celebrate the organization's first anniversary. In its inaugural year, MCS has awarded scholarships to 8 outstanding LGBTQIA student leaders from across the state totaling over \$10,000. 100% of donations in the first year went directly to student awards. MCS is fiscally sponsored by Pride St. Louis, and together, the two organizations awarded \$20,000 in scholarships this year alone.

On **Saturday, July 9th from 6-8 pm** MCS will be hold a fundraiser at The Tower at OPOP in Downtown St. Louis. As part of this event, MCS is proud to host **Tyler Dunnington**, a former St. Louis Cardinals minor league player, who will speak about his experience as a gay professional baseball player and the reasons he left the organization and decided to come out. He will also address an *OutSports* profile article published about him earlier this year.

After the horrific murders in Orlando, MCS believes its mission of supporting LGBTQIA youth is more important than ever, and MCS will continue striving to send a message of love and acceptance to the emerging generation of LGBTQIA leaders. MCS was founded as a positive response to an act of hate after the historic marriage equality decision last summer and gives scholarships to acknowledge, affirm, and reward the courage of high school students working to enhance the lives of LGBTQIA people in their schools and communities.

Tickets to this special event are at four tax-deductible donation levels and each includes an open beer and wine bar:

\$75 Friend of Courage – includes MCS magnet

\$150 Hero of Courage – includes MCS magnet and autographed baseball from Tyler

\$250 Champion of Courage – includes autographed baseball, MCS t-shirt, and private meet & greet with Tyler

\$500 Official Host – includes autographed baseball, private meet & greet with Tyler, and MCS gift basket

There are only a limited number of tickets available to this exclusive event. To purchase tickets please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mcs-first-anniversary-celebration-tickets-26120216270>

Missouri Courage Scholarship Website: <http://courage-scholarship.org>

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