DSA

Distinguished Student Awards Dinner

May 4, 2017 /// Eldorado Country Club

McKinney ISD
Distinguished Student Award

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Thursday, May 4, 2017
Eldorado Country Club

Tonight's Distinguished Student Awards presentation is a celebration of everything that McKinney ISD represents. We are here tonight to honor 45 students who have earned the highest level of recognition at the end of their elementary and secondary school years. We would like to thank the parents, teachers and administrators that have helped influence these students along the way.

In addition to these exceptional students, we will be honoring some of McKinney ISD's finest teachers. Each student was asked to select the teacher who made the most significant impact on his/her life. These dedicated teachers will be honored this evening with the McKinney ISD Inspirational Teacher Award.

The Distinguished Student Award

The Distinguished Student Award is the highest honor a student can receive by the McKinney Independent School District. Only 15 seniors from each high school are presented with the award each year. In addition to academics, recipients are selected based upon their overall commitment and dedication to one of the following areas: English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, Career & Technology, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, Athletics, another specific field of study (At-Large), and the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each high school.

Congratulations to the 45 distinguished students and their inspirational teachers.

McKinney ISD has a history of support from Stantec architectural firm. They have partnered with the district in the design of a number of educational facilities including, but not limited to, McKinney High School, McKinney North High School, Walker Elementary and Cockrill Middle School. In recent years, they have completed additions and renovations at McKinney High School and Faubion Middle School and, most recently, worked with the district on the design of a new auditorium for McKinney High School and the new McKinney ISD Stadium and Community Event Center. As a result of the district's partnership with Stantec, McKinney ISD boasts some of the most innovative and state-of-the-art educational environments in the state and nation. Their support of the district continues, and we would like to express our gratitude to Stantec for sponsoring the 2017 Distinguished Student Awards Dinner.

Stantec

English Honors

Madison Johnson /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
English Tutor, Mock Trial, ISM for Sewing Design, NHS, Academic Excellence Awards, AP Scholar with Distinction, Runs Sewing Commissions

College Plans
University of Texas: Rhetoric and Writing

Inspirational Teacher: Jennifer Bennett (Humanities 1 & 2, ISM)
I've had the privilege of being taught by the ray of light that is Mrs. Bennett for three years. In that time, she's become so much more that a teacher to me. Not only has her passion for literature ignited in me an affinity for English and led me to pursue writing as a career, but with her compassion and undying support even outside the classroom, I've come to see her as a second mother. Mrs. Bennett inspires me daily to be the best version of myself, and in teaching me to love freely and appreciate all that I'm given, she has truly shaped me into the person I am today. I count each day that I get to spend with her as a blessing.

Mia Hayes /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Band, Spanish Club, National Honor Society, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, Varsity Tennis, All-State Band, McKinney ISD Concerto Competition Finalist

College Plans
Southeastern University: English and Intercultural Studies w/ minor in Community Development & Poverty Alleviation

Inspirational Teacher: Sandra Eiland (4th Grade Teacher at Slaughter Elementary)
As my third grade teacher, Mrs. Eiland was not only an academic inspiration by challenging me in her class and pushing me to excellence but also a personal inspiration as a teacher who believed in me and my abilities even more than I did. She ignited my love for reading and poetry, helped me discover my gift and passion for writing and even helped me publish my first poem.

Payton Jackson /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
District 14-5A Academic Elite (2016), Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Kappa House Advisory Council, CNA Mentor (2016-2017), Power Volleyball MVP (2016), District 10-5A 2nd Team All-District (2015), Ranked #7 in Class

College Plans
Coker College: Biology (for a future in medicine) & Volleyball

Inspirational Teacher: Scott Henry (AP English III)
Mr. Henry brought my academics to a level I never thought I could reach. However, the main reason Mr. Henry is so important to me is his impact on my confidence. Mr. Henry never failed to push me out of my comfort zone toward success. Piece by piece, he broke down the walls holding me back until I became the confident, independent, outspoken student and young lady I am today. For that, I thank him.

Science Honors

Austin Williams /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Structural and Fundraiser Team Lead of the Living Roof Team, Engineering Club Officer, Academic UIL Team Captain, National Merit Finalist, Emler Swim School Instructor, NHS Communications Officer, AP Scholar with Distinction, Rotary Club Student of the Month

College Plans
University of Texas at Dallas: Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Dr. David Hodum (AP Physics 1 & 2)
As my teacher for the past two years, Dr. Hodum has inspired a love for the sciences. A modern-day Faraday, Dr. Hodum exemplifies that scientific progress is about ideas and curiosity and not simply mathematical expressions of vibrations in fields. With his encouraging analogies of test performances, lumberjack attire and knowledge of great TV shows, Dr. Hodum is not only someone I would call a stellar teacher, but also one I would call a friend.

Michael Hamilton /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Eagle Scout, Appointment to the Naval Academy

College Plans
US Naval Academy

Inspirational Teacher: Katharine Watson (AP & Pre-AP Chemistry)
Mrs. Watson sparked in me a love for chemistry which has lead me to lean toward a degree in that field. She has also inspired me athletically as she is the past cross-country coach and still runs on her own. So, I can always go to her to talk about running, and I can always count on seeing her at several of our meets throughout the season.

Jack DeMarco /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Academic All-District Golf (2015 & 2016), Varsity Golf Sportsmanship Award (2016) National Honor Society, Rotary Academic Excellence Award (3x)

College Plans
University of Texas: Environmental Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Faisal Khan (AP Physics C)
AP Physics C is the most challenging class I have taken—but the most rewarding. Mr. Khan teaches very advanced concepts while still showing his humor through countless puns. He has prepared me for the future by pushing me to my limits and not simply handing me answers. He has taught me how to think for myself which has carried over in all aspects of my life. Thank you for the confidence I have gained.

Social Studies Honors

Andrew Riding /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
National Merit Commended Scholar, Vice President of Latin Club, Officer in Engineering Club, Academic Excellence in Foreign Language

College Plans
University of Texas at Dallas: Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Colin Bado (AP U.S. History)
Coach Bado, from the very start of my freshman year, has always been a source of inspiration for me. From my time playing football as a freshman to my time as a student in his class when I was a junior, I never stopped learning and growing as a person. He taught me the true meaning of dedication, showed me the value of integrity and pushed me to work to my greatest potential. I know that without his influence on my past, I would be a lesser person than I am today.

Eleanor Gartstein /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
ISM, Interact Club President, NHS, AP Scholar with Distinction, Rotary Youth Leadership Award 26 District 5810, Academic Excellence Awards, Rotary Student of the Month

College Plans
University of Texas: Business

Inspirational Teacher: Mark Bayer (World Geography & Human Geography)
Mr. Bayer was the first teacher to show me how much I love Social Studies. As well as instilling a newfound appreciation for different cultures, Mr. Bayer taught concepts I will use both in and out of the classroom. He taught me to have an appreciation for learning that can be applied to the real world. I wish I could have had him all four years.

Trinity Vincent /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
National Merit Scholar, Student of Excellence Award (4 Years), AP Scholar with Distinction, Teacher's Aide at Cockrill Middle School, Volunteer with Project Linus, 4.0 GPA, Ranked #3 in Class

College Plans
University of Texas at Dallas: Information Technology and Systems

Inspirational Teacher: Dr. Jean Lake-Brown (AP Environmental Science)
I find Dr. Lake-Brown inspirational because she is a dedicated teacher and never fails to make me smile. She continually makes her lessons interesting and engaging, and the subject matter is relevant to everyday life. Dr. Lake-Brown's class is one that I can honestly say I enjoy attending every day, and the knowledge I have gained from her will stay with me long after graduation. Thank you for an awesome year!

Mathematics Honors

Aidan O'Brien /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
UIL Basketball Academic All-State First Team, NHS, State Farm Scholar Athlete of the Week (2x), Special Needs Volunteer and Mentor, Varsity Basketball (4 Years), Student Council, First Team All District Basketball 6-6A (2x), Habitat for Humanity Volunteer

College Plans
University of Oklahoma: Pre-med

Inspirational Teacher: Jennifer Hamlett (Biology)
Mrs. Hamlett required the absolute best of me from my first day of high school. She inspired and encouraged me to reach my full potential and emphasized the importance of success in the classroom. She is a great teacher who really sparked my interest in biology, which has led me to pursue a career in medicine. Her wonderful support, both academically and athletically, paved the way for a successful high school career.

Allison Wu /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Top 1% of Class, Honors Band (4 years), Band Student Leader, All-Region Band, Golden Ambassadors, National Honor Society, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction

College Plans
Rice University: Bioengineering and Statistics

Inspirational Teacher: Theresa Horvath (Calculus BC)
Mrs. Horvath is one of the sweetest, most caring people I know. Although Calculus BC didn't sound fun at first, she managed to make it my favorite class because of her amazing teaching ability. As my teacher, she drove me to be my best by setting high standards for me. I chose to pursue a major in the STEM field because of her. Thank you, Mrs. Horvath, for helping me find my passion.

Diandria Veals /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
AP Scholar with Distinction, MNHS Honors Orchestra, Master Musician Award, Student Council, National Honor Society, Certified Nurse Aide (CNA), Texas Christian University Chancellor Scholar

College Plans
Texas Christian University: Biochemistry

Inspirational Teacher: Deanne Pratt (Calculus)
My AP Calculus teacher, Mrs. Pratt has inspired me to always try to improve myself. She dedicates the time to listen to student feedback about her teaching in order to enrich her lessons for next year. Additionally, she places high expectations for each student and makes sure to let us know if we were not doing our best. Overall, Mrs. Pratt constantly inspires her students to surpass her highest expectations.

Career & Technology Honors

Mikensi Bryant /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
FCCLA president, FCCLA Vice President, NHS, Student Athletic Trainer (2 Years), Academic Excellence Award Athletic Training, Manager at Made of Sugar and Spice in McKinney (July 2014-present)

College Plans
Oklahoma State University

Inspirational Teacher: Alice Ellenburg (English 2 & AVID)
Mrs. Ellenburg significantly impacted my life as my sophomore English teacher and mentor. She taught me essential skills that will benefit me in college and beyond. She powerfully influenced my life and also my family's lives by reaching out in our times of need and offering any assistance she could provide. She is a wise, caring and successful mentor that truly inspires me to be a better friend, student and person.

John Millar /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
MHS1 Producer, National Multimedia Story of the Year (3rd Place), All-State Journalism Team, Journalism Student of the Year, 3 Green Cord Honors, Over 30 Journalism Awards

College Plans
University of Texas at Austin: Radio, Television and Film

Inspirational Teacher: Amy Smith (AP Language & Composition)
As my AP English teacher, Mrs. Smith taught me to improve my writing and analyze literature. She showed us fanny pack dances and encouraged us not to "eat the marshmallow" to make class fun. Outside of class, she's one of my favorite people to talk to, whether that's over brunch or about "Gilmore Girls." I cherish our conversations. Mrs. Smith has taught me to be a better student and to always have an optimistic outlook.

Sarah Taylor /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
National Honor Society, Volunteer for Charity Events in Surrounding Communities and Volunteer for Historic Downtown McKinney, National JEA Broadcast Competition Winner, Medaled at State ILPC UIL Conferences, Executive Producer NTV

College Plans
Texas A&M University-Commerce: Education

Inspirational Teacher: Conor Runge (Audio/Video Production)
Mr. Runge has always supported me as a student and as a person. Mr. Runge encourages me to work my hardest in and out of the classroom and to always remain positive. He has taught me a lot about technology and journalism, but more importantly, he has taught me a lot about life. I've become a better journalist and a better person because of him. I'm forever grateful for the wisdom he has shared with me.

Foreign Language Honors

Cole O'Neill /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
National Speech and Debate Tournament, National Merit Scholar, AP National Scholar Captain of the Debate Team (2 Years), National Honor Society

College Plans
University of Alabama: Accounting

Inspirational Teacher: Joshua Volenik (Spanish)
I had no passion for learning Spanish before I first attended Sr. Volenik's Spanish 3 course, and in fact practically had to be forced into it by my parents. As soon as I had finished my first day of his class, however, I knew that it was a place I wanted to be. His ability to craft a classroom environment that is at once accepting, challenging, instructive and fun is what makes him the best teacher that I have ever had and why this is deservedly his sixth straight year of receiving this award.

Ryan Culhane /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
I am most proud to have a wonderful German teacher, Mrs. Dieckman; Water Polo, Swimming/Diving, Baseball; Extra-curricular: German Language and Culture

College Plans
Collin College: Business & continue learning German

Inspirational Teacher: Sandra Dieckman (German)
As my German teacher, Frau Dieckman has inspired me to learn more about German language and culture. The knowledge she has provided about the German language has inspired me to think about my options after high school. As a student, I expected nothing less than success in her class because of how well Frau helped us understand more about the German Language, and I am forever grateful for that.

Riley McFarlane /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Varsity Golf (4 Years), Student Council (4 Years – Freshman Class President, Community Service Committee Chair, Junior Class President, Social Committee Chair), MISD Scholar Athlete of the Week, Rotary Award (3 Years), MVP (2 Years), Academic All-District (3 Years)

College Plans
Missouri University of Science and Technology: Biomedical Sciences/Pre-Veterinary Medicine & Golf

Inspirational Teacher: Chris James (English & Golf Coach)
Coach James has been my golf coach for four years. Starting my freshman year as a beginner, I needed a mentor; Coach James was just that. Whether I need advice on a golf shot or cheering up after a tough hole, Coach James is always there for me. He has shown me how to always look on the bright side of things and modeled how to treat others respectfully on and off the course.

Fine Arts Honors

Morgan Dworshak /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Top 10% of Class, 3.5 GPA or Higher (4 Years), Lieutenant of Bailadoras (Jr.), Co-Captain of Bailadoras (Sr.), State Farm Scholar Artist of the Week

College Plans
Texas Tech University: Psychology & Pre-Law

Inspirational Teacher: Caris Dunn (Dance & Drill Team)
As my dance teacher and drill team director, Mrs. Dunn challenges me every day to reach my highest potential as a dancer and inspires me to grow as a leader. She has taught me to lead my team with love and a servant's heart. Not only does she push me to grow in those areas, but she also motivates me to become a better person in general.

Morgan Dellow /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Outstanding Performer at Honors Recital, Area Audition in All-State Choir, TMEA Music Scholar Award, Highest Placing Soprano 1 from MHS in All-Region Audition, Soprano Lead in Operetta

College Plans
Texas Tech University: Music Education

Inspirational Teacher: Cindy Johnston (Choir)
Ms. Johnston has been an amazing mentor to me in the past five years. Being an incredible soprano herself, she has taught me by example and experience. She has helped me with every audition and performance, with more encouragement than I maybe deserved sometimes. If it weren't for her, I wouldn't have been able to achieve as much in the past four years, and wouldn't know what path I wanted my future to take.

Emily Esail /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
NHS (2 Years), 2015-2016 Showtime National Grand Champion, Silver and Bronze Awards, FFA Proficiency and Entrepreneurship Awards, FFA Officer (3 Years), Northstar Dance Officer (2 Years)

College Plans
Austin College: Biology & Education

Inspirational Teacher: Hannah Gassett (Dance & Drill Team)
As director of the Northstars, Mrs. Gassett has inspired me in numerous ways. Through her example, Mrs.Gassett has motivated me to become more mature, organized and responsible. She has been one of the main inspirations in my decision to become a teacher, and she is an excellent role model, typifying a teacher who goes above and beyond to organize and coordinate lessons and events while providing caring and supportive instruction for her students.

Fine Arts Honors

Tyler Kuehn /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
GDYO Philharmonic Orchestra, Lone Star Youth Wind Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra Teen Council, Woodwind Captain & Section Leader for Boyd Band, AP Scholar with Distinction, Interdisciplinary Study and Mentorship Program

College Plans
Northwestern University: Oboe Performance

Inspirational Teacher: Joe Nuñez (Band Director)
Nobody has ever believed in me like Mr. Nuñez has. He has given me countless solo opportunities during marching and concert season that have stretched my musicianship to new levels, entrusted leadership opportunities to me and given me the confidence that I need to pursue a field that has occasionally terrified me. Without his mentorship, I would not be where I am today or on my current trajectory.

Alena Horvath /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Marquette Officer (3 Years), Marquette Captain (2 Years), High School All-American Drill Team, Hip Hop Instructor at McKinney Dance Academy, Mastered New Levels of Yoga, Outstanding Math Student Award, Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Earned a 5 on the AP Calculus BC Exam (something none of my four older brothers did)

College Plans
Texas A&M University: Biomedical Engineering & Audition for Aggie Dance Team

Inspirational Teacher: Amy Neely (Dance)
As my drill team director for four years, I have gotten very close to Mrs. Neely. She has taught me many life lessons, helped me become a better dancer and taught me how to be a leader. She manages to be strict, demanding and intense, but also a loving, caring role model. She has filled my experience at McKinney High School with memories I will never forget.

Kyle Jurovic /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
All-State TMEA Symphonic Band (3x), Drum Major (Sr.), Assistant Drum Major (Jr.), Section Leader (Soph.), Outstanding Soloist Award, Outstanding Jazz Performer, Texas Music Scholar

College Plans
Texas State University: Jazz Performance

Inspirational Teacher: Alan Harkey (Honors Band & Jazz Band)
Under Mr. Harkey's leadership, I have developed a passion for playing music, learned about responsibility, accomplished many goals and I have acquired the essential skill of time management. To quote Mr. Harkey, "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is to be running laps." Mr. Harkey has inspired me to pursue a career in music, and I am thankful for the guidance and support he has given me the past four years at McKinney North.

Fine Arts Honors

Luke Rogers /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Boyd Honors Consortium Orchestra, Varsity Soccer, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra, NHS, Dallas Cello and Bass Conservatory, Manchester Soccer Club 99Boys, TMEA All-State Orchestra Member (3 Years), AP Scholar with Honors

College Plans
College Undecided: Bass Performance & Recording Arts

Inspirational Teacher: Michael Link (Orchestra Director)
Mr. Link's consistent help and encouragement over the last four years have pushed me to become a competitive bass player at the highest level. But, more importantly, Mr. Link has molded me into a musician of good character, as he has shown me that music is more than just performing for an award—it is performing for a passion. Thank you Mr. Link. I would not be where I am today without you.

Kaitlin Oesterreicher /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Academic Excellence Award, Superior and Exemplary Ratings on Class One Violin Solo, Awarded a 4 at VASE (4 Years), Working with a Professional Animation Company, Freelance Illustrator, Qualifying for AQHYA World Show (2017)

College Plans
Texas A&M University: Visualization

Inspirational Teacher: Amanda Hughes (Art)
As my high school art teacher, Mrs. Hughes has impacted me greatly by challenging me as both an artist and as an individual. In art, you can always expect the unexpected. Mrs. Hughes has undoubtedly prepared me more than anyone for my experiences in AP Art and for the artistic world that lies ahead of me. She has molded me into the artist and person I am today, and for that, I am forever grateful.

Rachel Melendez /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Orchestra, Theatre, Orchestra Council (3 Years), Letter Jacket Award, Concert Musician Award, Master Musician Award, MNHS Orchestra Honor Cord

College Plans
Collin College

Inspirational Teacher: Margaret Brown (Orchestra)
Mrs. Brown has been with me since I started the orchestra program. She has taught many musical lessons, but also life skills that I can take with me. She always pushes me do my best and never gives up on any student. She taught me how to be a leader and is another mother figure in my life whom I fully respect.

Athletics Honors

Francesca Gall /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Varsity Softball (4 Years), Defensive MVP (2016), Academic All-District 2013-17, Top 10% of Class (#8), Second Team All-District (2016)

College Plans
Texas A&M University: Biology then Medical School

Inspirational Teacher: Joshua Tiller (English)
As my AP English IV teacher, Mr. Tiller has reignited my love for reading and studying literary classics. His class is both intriguing and fun. I do not go a day without laughing in his class. Mr. Tiller's unique sense of humor is refreshing, and he always finds insight in even the most minute details, and our class discussions drive us to think deeply about the essence of humanity. Mr. Tiller is one of the most brilliant teachers I have ever met and I would even like to consider him a good friend.

Lindy Patterson /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
MHS Golf: State Qualifier (2015-2016), Team District Champions (2015-2016), District Champion (2014-2015), CC 1st Team Academic All-State (2016-2017), State Farm Scholar Athlete of the Week (May, 2016), Award of Excellence for Science (2016), NTPGA All-American Tour Overall Champion Fall Preview (Sept., 2016), NTPGA All-American Tour Overall Champion February Feud (Feb., 2016)

College Plans
University of Texas at Dallas: Biomedical Engineering & Golf

Inspirational Teacher: Keir Burke (MNHS Assistant Principal)
Mrs. Burke has been at the top of my lengthy favorite teacher list since 4th grade. She was my science and math teacher at Minshew, and as luck would have it, three years later at Cockrill. Mrs. Burke instilled a LOVE for those subjects that continues to grow. She inspired me to challenge myself academically and taught me skills including integrity, determination and compassion that will benefit me for the rest of my life.

Julia Madubuike /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
AVID, Member of The Orange Crush (2016); 5A state champions: 4x100 m, 4x200 m and 100 m (2016); McKinney Female Athlete of the Year (2015-2016); Track & Field MVP (2016)

College Plans
Texas A&M University: Biology & Track

Inspirational Teacher: Jessica Richards (Track & Field Coach)
If I could describe Coach Richards in three words they'd be: dedicated, passionate and competitive. These are essential qualities that create an outstanding coach, and that is in fact what she is. From my first freshmen meet to my last senior season, she has been an amazing advocate who pushed me to excel. Along the way, she has encouraged me and taught me the important values of becoming a better athlete and individual and to continue to inspire others around me.

Athletics Honors

Austin Buley /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
National Merit Commended Scholar, Varsity Football and Baseball (3 Years), National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, Academic All-State Elite Team—Football, Rotary Club Academic Excellence Award (3 Years), Distinguished Achievement Program Graduate, National Honor Society

College Plans
College of Charleston—Honors College: Meteorology & Baseball

Inspirational Teacher: Don Drake (Head Football Coach)
Coach Drake has always seen the best in me as a player and as a student. He taught me not just lessons in sports, but lessons on how to live my life without regrets. From his coaching on the football field to his talks with our team, Coach Drake inspired me to always give everything I had in both sports and school, and I now carry that into life as well.

Jesse Ardila /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
AP Scholar with Honors, National Hispanic Scholar, U.S. Academic Achievement Scholarship, Varsity Soccer Captain (3 years), District 10-5A MVP (2016), 1st Team All-District, 1st Team All-Area Midfielder, 2nd Team All-State Forward (2016), District 6-6A Midfielder of the Year (2017), THSCA Academic All-State Elite Team (2017)

College Plans
University of Texas at Dallas Collegium V Honors Program: Mechanical Engineering and Soccer

Inspirational Teacher: Alan Pocock (Head Soccer Coach)
In terms of self-improvement as a student and individual, Coach Pocock has been there for me all four years. Not only has he guided me toward excellence on and off the field, but he has personally invested numerous hours of his own time for me. Coach Pocock has been my biggest advocate at MHS, for which I am sincerely grateful.

Khalil Lewis /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete of the Year (Dallas Chapter), 1st Team Academic All-State, 1st All-District Football Selection (2x), All-Collin County Football Selection (2014)

College Plans
University of Pennsylvania: Pre-Med & Football

Inspirational Teacher: David Moliere (Biology & Administrator)
As my freshman biology teacher and administrator, Mr. David Moliere has displayed to me what it takes to be a respected individual. Through his interactions with students, teachers and administrators one can see the importance of fairness, character and truth and how that correlates to widespread admiration and respect across the entire school. He is an impeccable role model, and I am grateful to have met him.

At-Large Honors

Rylie Simmons /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities/Achievements
Mckinney Boyd PAL, Top 10% of Class, Miss Congeniality, Recipient of Honors Scholarship, Young Life Capernaum Volunteer, Boyd Soccer (Fr. & Soph.), Serving as a Nanny

College Plans
Midwestern State University: Nursing

Inspirational Teacher: Katie Abel (PALS)
I have had the privilege of knowing Mrs. Abel my junior and senior year through the PALs program. From day one, she has poured into me both personally and academically. She has taught me that I can achieve anything that I put my mind to and to always chase my dreams. I can't even count all of the life lessons she has taught me and all the opportunities she has blessed me with. Thank you, for being the most influential teacher in my life and for investing in me.

Nicole Stuessy /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
All-State Journalism (3 Years), Varsity Basketball (3 Years), Basketball Academic All-State, Finalist for National Scholastic Press Association National Multimedia Story of the Year and Yearbook Design of the Year, 79 Individual Journalism Awards, Yearbook Editor (2 Years)

College Plans
University of Texas: Journalism

Inspirational Teacher: Alyssa Boehringer (Yearbook & Broadcasting)
Mrs. Boehringer wasn't my actual teacher until this year, but she has been a mentor to me for all four years of high school on the academic UIL team. This year, Mrs. Boehringer also took on the role of yearbook advisor. In the time she has been my teacher, she has helped me find my voice through writing editorials and has helped me learn the power of social media for journalists.

Daniel Pickering /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Captain of the Guard Dawgs, Varsity Dive and Track & Field, Lettered in Orchestra, Master Musician Award, Office Aide, Member at Planet Smoothie

College Plans
Collin College then transfer to the University of Texas at San Antonio

Inspirational Teacher: Holly Gomez (English IV)
Mrs. Gomez has inspired me by helping me learn how to analyze, understand and enjoy reading. My English grade has improved tremendously from years past. Her teaching style is not standard, but new and very expressive for all students. The kids that know her feel comfortable coming to her and asking questions. She has helped me become successful and improve my outlook on a subject I once struggled in.

At-Large Honors

HD Tolson /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Student Body President, NHS Historian, Voted Mr. Nice Guy at Boyd Homecoming, PALS, 2017 Leadership Award, Lions Club Student of the Month, YoungLife Capernaum and Special Olympics Volunteer, Middle School Mentor at First McKinney Baptist Church, YoungLife Camp Special Needs Buddy

College Plans
Baylor University: Journalism

Inspirational Teacher: Jennifer Lloyd (English & STUCO)
Since the first day that I met her, Mrs. Lloyd has been marked by her unwavering support for her students. She is a consistent and grounded teacher, and any student who knows her knows that they can trust her and rely on her. She challenges her students and expects us to step up to the plate. That is a rare quality that has impacted me and provided me with a stronger belief in myself and a stronger drive to reach goals and set higher expectations for myself.

Micha Wallesen /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
Outstanding Geography Student (Freshman), Student Council Parliamentarian and Senior Class President, Current Events UIL Team, National Honor Society, Academic Excellence Award (4 Years)

College Plans
University of Georgia: College of Public and International Studies

Inspirational Teacher: Richard McGowan (AP World & AP European History)
I have been lucky enough to have Mr. McGowan for two years in two very interesting and challenging subjects. Mr. McGowan has encouraged me to believe in my academic potential and helped shape my love of history, geography and the way the past connects to the future. I credit so much of my additional will to learn and my incredibly well edited college essays to him. Thank you for all you have done.

Erica Tucker /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Varsity Volleyball (3 Years), National Honor Society, Academic All-District, Rotary Academic Excellence Award, Student Council Executive Board Secretary

College Plans
University of Oklahoma: Health & Exercise Science

Inspirational Teacher: Ty Muennink (Student Council Sponsor)
Mr. Muennink is by far my favorite teacher at McKinney North. Not only is he an amazing student council sponsor, he is a superb life teacher. His personality lets him click with his students in ways other teachers cannot. Mr. Muennink has taught me to stay dedicated, how to become a leader and how to take initiative when others won't. I could go on and on, but I'll end with a quote from Mr. Muennink: "Set up for success."

Salutatorian Honors

Lexi Thorson /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
National Merit Finalist, National AP Scholar, NHS President, Key Club President, Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, Homecoming Academics Queen, Language Immersion Program in Spain, Texas Youth and Government

College Plans
University of Texas: Business Honors and Spanish

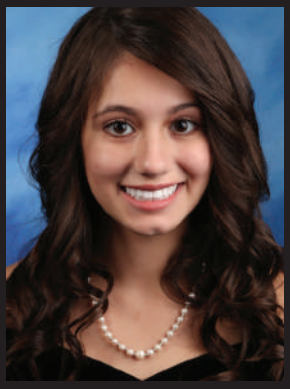
Inspirational Teacher: Robin Lakey (AP Statistics)
Mrs. Lakey is so much more than an educator. While her classroom perfectly balances academic challenge with individualized learning, it is the constant laughter that I will remember. She brightens every room with her infectious enthusiasm, and her compassion for her students inspires me on a daily basis. Through the ups and downs of senior year, Mrs. Lakey has always been there to listen and give lots of hugs. I am truly blessed to have her as a lifelong inspiration, mentor and friend.

Eric Beights /// McKinney High School

Activities and Achievements
NASA SLI Participant, 21st in TARC Nationals, Chief of Science — Engineering Club, TSA National Qualifier in Flight Endurance, 1st in TSA Kit Rocket Competition, Vice President of Physics Club, Regional Qualifier in UIL Computer Applications, AP Scholar with Distinction Award

College Plans
Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Robert Gupton (Engineering)
Mr. Gupton has been my teacher in numerous engineering classes throughout my middle school and high school career. He introduced me to various advanced and challenging competitions, encouraging me to further my goals in engineering. His passion and unwavering commitment in every class he teaches and every project he takes on continues to inspire me to pursue a career in engineering. I couldn't have imagined a better teacher to guide me through school.



Melina Corriveau /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
President of the Interact Club, President of the National Art Honor Society, Recipient of Four Green Cords, State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Award (4x), Spirit of McKinney Youth Volunteer of the Year Award, National Merit Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction

College Plans
Southern Methodist University: Biochemistry & Spanish

Inspirational Teacher: Andrew Myers (Spanish)
Since entering my sophomore year, Sr. Myers has become an integral part of my high school experience. Going above his contractual obligation of ensuring I knew how to conjugate verbs, Sr. Myers also became invested in my life and future. During moments that ranged from inquiring about how my brother was adjusting to high school to writing numerous letters of recommendation, the most important lesson he taught me was how vital it is to care and connect with those around me.

Valedictorian Honors

Nidha Sha /// McKinney Boyd High School

Activities and Achievements
Siemens Semi-finalist (2x); National Merit Finalist; NCWIT DFW Metroplex Aspirations in Computing Award; National AP Scholar; Oracle, Cisco and Microsoft Certified Professional

College Plans
University of Pennsylvania or University of Houston: Neuroscience

Inspirational Teacher: Richard Supak (Latin)
Our AP Latin class taught by Mr. Supak runs on group discussion, which results in insightful ideas – along with a few tangential conversations. Yet in this way, Mr. Supak brings the Latin language together with other subjects. But, his teaching extends beyond the classroom: constantly pushing us to indulge in our own interests outside of school, he stresses the importance of discovery and relaxation in addition to academic excellence. He inspires me to explore and expand, to “work hard” and “play hard.”

Shuva Gautam /// McKinney High School

Activities/Achievements
President of Spanish Club, All Girls Team America Rocketry Challenge Team, NASA Student Launch Initiative, Technology Student Association, President of Physics Club, Vice President of Club 24:12, AP Scholar with Distinction, Perfect attendance (so far - 4 Years)

College Plans
University of Houston: Mechanical Engineering

Inspirational Teacher: Robert Gupton (Engineering)
Mr. Gupton is an incredibly dedicated teacher. His passion for enriching his students’ education inspired me to pursue a career in engineering. Through his perseverance I learned to never let obstacles impede my success. His compassion drives me to be the best I can be. I cannot think of any other person who has the admirable drive Mr. Gupton has. Thank you, Mr. Gupton for providing me with an unforgettable high school experience.

Mushfequr Rahman /// McKinney North High School

Activities and Achievements
Student Council President, Camp RYLA 26, Spanish Elite President, 2nd place in UIL District Spelling & Vocabulary (2016), Interact Club Secretary, Blue Blazer, National AP Scholar, National Merit Commended Scholar, National Honor Society

College Plans
Southern Methodist University President’s Scholar: Biochemistry and Political Science

Inspirational Teacher - Amber Stephens (Teen Leadership and PALS at Evans MS)
When I first met Ms. Stephens, I was slightly overwhelmed by her energy and exuberance. However, over the next five years, I came to embrace this tenacity in my own life as Ms. Stephens guided me into theatre as an enthusiastic director and into high school as a trusted mentor and friend. Ms. Stephens has been my fairy godmother and true role model all rolled into one. Thank you, Ms. Stephens for always supporting me!

Acknowledgements

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