



# City Commission Agenda Item

**Meeting Date:** 4/20/2021

**From:** Andrew Lawson, Public Information Officer

**Item:** Recognize and Honor Outstanding Student Award Winners

## **Purpose:**

Recognize and congratulate Gabriella Herrera and Trevor McDowell, Arkansas City's Outstanding Student Award scholarship recipients for 2019-2020.

Recognize and congratulate Audrianna Bruce, Eleana Messenger and Dawson O'Donnell, Arkansas City's Outstanding Student Award scholarship recipients for 2020-2021.

## **Background:**

The Outstanding Student Award program was started in 1984. The City Commission implemented the program to recognize students who are outstanding examples of academic and civic excellence in our community. Each year, staff asks teachers, staff, and administrators at Arkansas City Middle School, Arkansas City High School and Cowley College to nominate students they think are qualified for this honor.

Each year, the Outstanding Student Award Committee, appointed by the Mayor and City Commission, receives all nominations from the three schools. Short, informal interviews are conducted with each nominee, and the committee then chooses three finalists from each school to represent the nominees.

From the nine (9) finalists, a top student is chosen for each school. One (1) of them is chosen to represent the City of Arkansas City as the Outstanding Student for that year and to receive a **\$1,000** scholarship. The first runner-up now receives a **\$500** scholarship and the second runner-up receives a **\$250** scholarship.

Last year's overall Outstanding Student (*awarded retroactively*) is Cowley College student **Trevor McDowell** and the first runner-up is Arkansas City High School senior **Gabriella Herrera**. (*NOTE: There were no Arkansas City Middle School nominees interviewed for the 2019-2020 school year.*)

This year's overall Outstanding Student for Arkansas City is Cowley College student **Audrianna Bruce**. The first runner-up is Arkansas City High School senior **Eleana Messenger**, while the second runner-up is Arkansas City Middle School eighth-grader **Dawson O'Donnell**.

## **Commission Options:**

1. Introduce Gabriella Herrera and formally award her a \$500 scholarship.
2. Introduce Trevor McDowell and formally award him the 2019-2020 Outstanding Student Award.
  
1. Introduce Dawson O'Donnell and formally award him a \$250 scholarship.
2. Introduce Eleana Messenger and formally award her a \$500 scholarship.
3. Introduce Audrianna Bruce and formally award her the 2020-2021 Outstanding Student Award.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Amount: **\$3,250.00**

Fund: **01** (General)

Department: **201** (Commission)

Expense Code: **6217**

(Contributions)

Included in Budget

Grant

Bonds

Other (explain)

**\$1,750** was budgeted in **2021** for scholarships. **NOTE:** No funds were expended in **2020** for this program.

**Attachments:**

**Approved for Agenda by:**

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Randy Frazer, City Manager