



The Congressional Award

America's Award for Youth

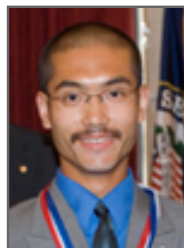
May - August Newsletter

Message from the National Director

The mission of the Congressional Award Foundation is to bring this opportunity to every interested young person in the United States. I am delighted to report that during Fiscal Year 2006, over 24,000 participants were enrolled in the Congressional Award program - from all 50 states. In addition, over 10,000 adult volunteers served as advisors or mentors, helping to reach more youth than ever before. I would like offer a special thanks to all of the participants, volunteers, congressional staff, and partnering organizations for making this year our most successful to date.

Participant Spotlight

ZiChuan (Tren) Qu, from Overland Park, Kansas, is a 2006 Congressional Award Gold Medalist. In earning his Gold Medal, Tren completed over 400 hours of Voluntary Public Service in his community by serving as an Assistant Scout Master and Merit Badge Counselor for the Boy Scouts and as a volunteer researcher for City Union Mission. For his Personal Development, Tren served as a chapter vice president of Phi Theta Kappa (honors society) at Johnson County Community College, and organized the 2005 Hurricane Katrina relief effort on campus. For Physical Fitness, Tren started on the Junior Varsity Track Team at Shawnee Mission West High School, and trained as a long-distance runner for the Johnson County Community College Cross Country and Track Team. For his Expedition/Exploration, in addition to camping with Boy Scouts, Tren lived incognito



Recent Events:

The 2006 Gold Medal Ceremony was a huge success with 242 Gold Medalists honored in the Capitol by Members of the United States Congress. [Learn more...](#)

The Twelfth Annual Congressional Award Golf Classic presented by Assurant Health was held Monday May 1st at the Army-Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. [Learn more...](#)

On Monday, July 24, 2006, The Congressional Award hosted its First Annual Congressional Award Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament. [Learn more...](#)

Participant Quote:

"I have gained a lot of responsibility and my time management has improved. To keep up with day to day school activities and extracurricular activities, volunteer time was only possible after managing my time well. I grew more selfless and

in the City Union Mission Men's Shelter for four nights and five days and submitted an over 7,000-word-long memoir to the shelter administration. Michael Bloemkur, Tren's track coach states, "Tren is one of the finest young men I've ever coached. He is a caring, hard working young man and incredibly bright. He is a joy to coach"

Recent Ceremonies

Congressman Vic Snyder (AR02) presented Alana Brunke with her Silver Medal in a ceremony at his district office on May 15, 2006.



Congressman Frank Wolf (VA10) presented, from left to right, Matthew Cutler, Julie Gaven, Melissa Gaven, and Sam Pauken with their Congressional Awards in a recent

ceremony in the Congressman's Washington office.

Josiah and Abraham Gerber received their Bronze Medals on the air in a ceremony with Congressman Mike Pence (IN06) on station WOWO in Indiana earlier this year.



Congressional Spotlight

Congresswoman Anne Northup, pictured honoring Jessica Fernandez, represents the third district of Kentucky. She attended St. Mary's College and was a teacher before entering Congress. Congresswoman Northup was thrilled to have an



opportunity to recognize Jessica and speak with her parents. This was one of her first ceremonies. The Congresswoman stated that "as Louisville continues to grow and evolve, young leaders will become the backbone of

tried to help less fortunate people."

~Elizabeth Woo, Bronze Medalist, California.

Advisor Quote:

"I've been working with Keegan on this for several years. I've been so impressed with Keegan's commitment to this project. He has been a dedicated worker at our historic village."

~Andrea Erbskorn, Advisor for Silver Medalist Keegan Witt, Ohio.

Gold Medalist Internship:

If you are a recent Gold Medalist, and are interested in an internship with the Congressional Award, please contact Kati Deschler at deschler@congressionalaward.org

Take Action

- [Search for Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Contact your Member of Congress](#)
- [Sign Up to Receive Email Updates](#)

our community. We live in the 16th largest city in the United States, which means young people have plenty of opportunities to get involved and make a difference. I admire those who work hard, take initiative, and strive to do their best work."

Alumni Updates

An alumni website and online community are currently being developed. Many 2006 Gold Medalists have communicated an interest in assisting the creation of this new forum. Within the next few months we hope to appoint Regional Alumni Coordinators (on a volunteer basis) to the Association. We will keep you posted with all Alumni Association developments in the future. If you are interested in assisting the Alumni Association, please contact: Network Relations Manager - John Brendan Guinan at Guinan@CongressionalAward.org

Staff Updates

The Congressional Award is pleased to have two new Program Managers. Deborah Horwitz is the new Northeast Program and Media Relations Manager. She is a recent graduate of American University with a degree in Political Communications. She brings to CAF a background in PR, lobbying, and publicity campaign management. John Guinan is our new North Central Program and Network Relations Manager. A graduate of St. Bonaventure University, John worked in Northern Ireland with Playing for Peace, an organization that works to bridge divides between youth in war-torn countries.

The Congressional Award Foundation
PO Box 77440, Washington, DC 20013 : 202-226-0130