



The Congressional Award

America's Award for Youth

September - December Newsletter

Message from the National Office

As we approach the holiday season, the spirit of giving surrounds us. We reflect on the many contributions made throughout the year, and offer thanks to those who have made a difference in our world. With over 1.5 million hours of service contributed through the Congressional Award program, young people everywhere are truly exemplifying the meaning of service. On behalf of everyone at the Congressional Award National Office, we recognize those young Americans who are giving of themselves everyday, and encourage more young people to join the challenge of making the world a better place. We wish you all Happy Holidays and best wishes in the New Year.

Erica Heyse

National Director

Recent Ceremonies

Steven MacEachern, a senior at North Carolina State University, received his Silver Medal in a recent ceremony with Senator Richard Burr (left), and Chancellor Oblinger (right) of the University.



Gold Medal 2007

Dates to Remember:

ALL Gold Medal record books must be postmarked by February 1, 2007, to be considered for the summer ceremony.

Any revisions (if needed) must be postmarked by March 15, 2007.

ALL Gold Medalists will be notified by April 1, 2007 regarding their approval and invitation to the 2007 Gold Medal Ceremony.

The 2007 Gold Medal Ceremony will be in Washington, DC during the third week of June. The date will be announced shortly.

Participant Quote:

"I have gained the skills of organizing and focusing on achieving a goal! I understand myself and others better as a result of my efforts."



Congressman Solomon Ortiz (TX27) presented Karen Pickens (seated) with her Silver Medal in a recent ceremony.

Laura Webb received her Silver Medal in a ceremony with Congressman Ben Chandler (KY06) in September 2006.



Participant Spotlight



Luke Schipper, pictured left with Congressman Steve King, was born on a small farm in Iowa. Throughout his life Luke's daily routine consisted of waking up early, tending to the family farm, going to school, and volunteering in his local community. Luke's ceremony for the

Congressional Award Bronze and Silver Medals with Congressman King (IA05) was held while he was home on leave after completing basic training with the US Coast Guard. Luke volunteered over 200 hours of public service to repairing wheelchairs for disabled individuals at a local store in George, Iowa. For his Personal Development, Luke learned the intricacies of agriculture, and general construction tasks including dry walling, demolition, and painting. To improve his overall physical health, Luke spent time practicing Tae Kwon Do, running, and weight lifting. Luke's Expedition took him to the Badlands National Park in South Dakota where he planned and executed a two-night camping trip. His mother Elmira indicated that she will miss him dearly while he is stationed in Seattle with the Coast Guard. She boasts, "I am incredibly proud of Luke for all of his accomplishments, as is his WWII veteran Grandpa, who was present at the ceremony."

~ Catherine Briscoe, Silver Medalist, Alabama

Advisor Quote:

"Laura continues to push herself and find ways to grow. She steps out of her comfort zone and does so willingly. She is learning so much about herself. She's super!"

~ Julie Rowse, Advisor for Laura VanEpps, Nebraska

Gold Medalist Internship:

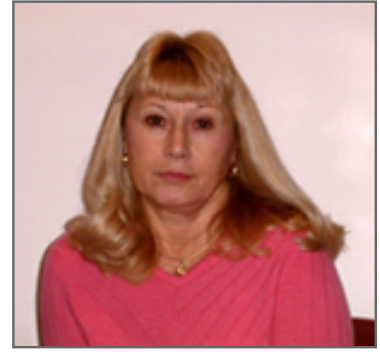
If you are a recent Gold Medalist, and are interested in an internship with the Congressional Award, please contact Kati Deschler at deschler@congressionalaward.org

Take Action

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

Advisor Spotlight

Dr. Babs Bennett, Gifted and Talented Program Supervisor with Millville Public Schools, has been advising New Jersey youth since 1995. To date, Millville has exceeded well over 100 Congressional Award recipients under her direction. Dr. Bennett was initially interested in the Congressional Award because she felt like it gave students the opportunity to set and achieve long-term goals. She also admired the diversity of the four components. "The Congressional Award provides opportunities for students to organize and successfully complete long-term projects that turn learning experiences into life adventures!" said Dr. Bennett, "The four components emphasize the whole person, allowing students to grow in so many ways to broaden their levels of self-interest, develop useful life skills, experience the rewards of helping others by serving their community and those in need, and recognizing the importance of including a rigorous fitness program into one's lifestyle." One of her most memorable experiences with the Congressional Award was when 12 of her students were presented Gold Medals at the 2004 Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington D.C.



New Board Member Welcome



Mr. Michael J. Esser, of Chesterfield, Missouri, was recently appointed to serve as Member of The Congressional Award Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Esser, pictured left, along with Chairman John Falk, presented Clare Brady of St. Louis with the Congressional Award Gold Medal in June 2006. Mr. Esser is a General Principal at Edward Jones Investments. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Westminster College and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton

School of Business and Commerce. Mr. Esser also serves as President of the Congressional Award Missouri Council and as a Member of the State of Missouri Governor's Council on Disability.

A Special Thanks

The Congressional Award would like to recognize Representative Major Owens (NY11) for his commitment and dedication to the Congressional Award program. Over the last five years, eight young people from the 11 th district have been recognized with the Congressional Award Gold Medal. The Congressman also established a Congressional Award Council to support the growth of the program in the Brooklyn area. Congressman Owens was presented with our Leadership Award in 2002, which recognizes individuals in the public sector for their efforts to enhance the lives of our nation's youth. We wish



him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

The Congressional Award Foundation
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