



The Congressional Award

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Congress Honors 170 Young Americans With The Congressional Award Gold Medal Participants Congratulated by Members of Congress During Ceremonies on Capitol Hill

Washington, D.C. (June 26, 2006)—Congress bestowed their highest honor--*The Congressional Award Gold Medal*--upon 170 young people during three ceremonies that took place on Capitol Hill this past Wednesday, June 21st, 2006. Marguerite Sallee, CEO and President of America's Promise, and the Director of AmeriCorps, Marlene Mazyck, praised the Honorees for their commitment to bettering themselves and their communities. 35 Members of Congress, including Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), and Senator Rick Santorum (R- PA), were also on hand to congratulate the Award recipients.

“This is an opportunity to recognize initiative, achievement and service in America’s youth,” said House Speaker Dennis Hastert. “It’s important to reward young people for making positive choices and this award reinforces the values that set the foundation for a new generation of young leaders.”

In working towards their medals, the 242 honorees contributed over 130,000 hours of public service within their local communities. The Congressional Award Foundation encourages participants to be well-rounded by setting goals in personal development, physical fitness and cultural exploration. Through this award, the U.S. Congress hopes to honor and encourage volunteer public service and recognize the unsung accomplishments of young Americans throughout the United States.

“The Congressional Award Program has taught me the value of setting and reaching goals,” said Nicholas Simmons, a 2006 Gold Medal recipient. “I’ve also learned the importance of helping others and in turn making my community, county, and country a better place to live.”

The Congressional Award, a public-private partnership, established by Congress in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, is a non-competitive program open to young people ages 14-23, regardless of mental or physical challenges, or socioeconomic status. The Congressional Award Foundation teaches participants to set and achieve personally challenging goals that build character, and foster community service, personal development, and citizenship.

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