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Senator Wyden Presents The Congressional Award, Highlights Student Creativity in STEM

Portland, OR — The inaugural Oregon Statewide Congressional Award Ceremony took place on Friday, April 12, 2019 at KinderCare Learning Centers Corporate Offices in Portland, Oregon.

United States Senator Ron Wyden recognized student leaders with Congressional Award Medals and offered a Q&A for constituents to address today's most pressing issues and local opportunities.



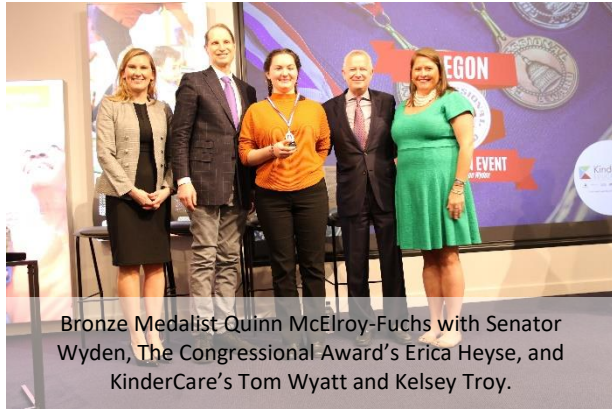
U.S. Senator Ron Wyden provides remarks to Congressional Awardees and guests.

"I am incredibly inspired by these amazing young Oregonians and the outstanding public service they have provided in our state," Wyden said. "Each richly deserves their Congressional Awards and I thank The Congressional Award program for recognizing them and so many other young people around the country working hard to make their communities better."

KinderCare Education's Chief Executive Officer, **Tom Wyatt**, and Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer and Congressional Award Board Member, **Kelsey Troy**, were on hand to support the youth honorees and reinforce their organization's mission to provide quality early education.

Prior to the award ceremony, Senator Wyden traversed the city to participate in events that displayed the latest progress in student-led STEM activities. He served as a special guest at the Intel Northwest

Science Expo hosted by **Portland State University** as well as a science experiment with children and their teachers at **KinderCare** in downtown Portland.



Bronze Medalist Quinn McElroy-Fuchs with Senator Wyden, The Congressional Award's Erica Heyse, and KinderCare's Tom Wyatt and Kelsey Troy.



Senator Wyden presents Caleb Jacobson with the Bronze Medal.

Quinn McElroy-Fuchs earned not only The Congressional Award Silver Medal but was also presented with a STEM Star for creating Operation Tooth Fairy, a Girl Scout Gold Award project that brings dental care information and dental supplies to low-income families in the Greater Portland area.

“The Congressional Award has really taught me about the importance of goal setting. Even if a goal seems out of reach if you put the time and effort in to work at it piece by piece, you will be surprised by the impact you can make,” said Quinn.

By collaborating with partners like KinderCare, The Congressional Award **STEM Stars Initiative** aims to stoke passion for science and math and help make STEM more approachable. Priorities include educating students to be leaders and innovators in emerging and rapidly changing STEM fields as well as educating a scientifically literate populace.



Bronze Medalist Aayush Bhatt shares his Congressional Award story.

Oregon Congressional Award Recipients:

- Martin Berger of Portland (Silver Medal)
- Aayush Bhatt of Beaverton (Bronze Medal)
- Akash Bindalof Beaverton (Bronze Medal)
- Caleb Jacobson of Portland (Bronze Medal)
- Rachel Luther of Hood River (Gold Medal)
- Quinn McElroy-Fuchs of Portland (Silver Medal)
- Patrick Townsend of Portland (Gold Medal)
- Timothy Townsend of Portland (Silver Medal)

About

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' only charity and the highest honor bestowed upon a youth civilian through the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Established by Congress as a public-private partnership in 1979 under Public Law 96-114, the program recognizes initiative, service, and achievement in youth ages 13 ½ - 23. Learn more at www.congressionalaward.org.

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