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Congressional Award

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REPRESENTATIVE WM. LACY CLAY RECOGNIZES RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD IN MISSOURI STATE CEREMONY

July 9, 2016 (St. Louis, Missouri) – Representative Wm. Lacy Clay of Missouri's 1st congressional district awarded young people across the state with the Congressional Award, Congress' highest award for youth. The annual ceremony was held at the Edward Jones headquarters in St. Louis. The event welcomed 100 guests to celebrate the achievements of the Congressional Award Medalists.



Missouri 2016 Medalists with Congressman Clay, Helen Gannon, Jesse Hill, Steve Roberts, and Stacey and Jim Weddle.

Jim and Stacey Weddle of Edward Jones, longtime supporters of the Congressional Award served as this year's hosts. The Weddle's have a long history with the Congressional Award as their sons Chris and Dustin Weddle have both earned Gold Medals and Stacey serves on the Congressional Award Missouri State Council. "Our associates and partners have been longtime supporters of the Congressional Award Foundation," says Edward Jones Managing Partner Jim Weddle. "This is a wonderful program that encourages students to build leadership skills as they contribute to their communities. The impressive young people honored today are going for the Gold, and by striving to improve, they represent our hopes for the future."

The ceremony recognized high school and college students from across Missouri that had earned Congress' highest honor within the past year. Receiving Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals, the participants set and accomplished goals in the areas of Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Exploration.

Congressman Clay delivered words of encouragement and praise and presented twelve medals to the young Missourians. In addition to the ceremony's special guest of honor, other community leaders showed their support for the Congressional Award. **Mike Bush** of KSDK lent his talents as Master of Ceremonies, **Dr. Yemi Akande-Bartsch of FOCUS St. Louis** provided the keynote address, and **Helen Gannon of St. Louis Irish Arts Inc.** provided an Advisors' perspective. Dr. Akande-Bartsch discussed the pillars of leadership in her keynote address and assigned the medalists homework to continue their journey. "Stay involved, stay engaged and expand your horizons in your communities and outside." She also urged medalists to "Be bold enough to

change the status quo." National Board Members **Jesse Hill of Edward Jones** and **Steve Roberts of the Roberts Companies** also participated in the event.

Throughout the year, Congressional Award Medalists are honored at local ceremonies and medal presentations by Members of Congress at the district and state levels, as well as at a national Gold Medal Ceremony held each June in Washington, D.C. Since its inception in 1979, the Congressional Award has recognized thousands of young Americans committed to serving their country and improving themselves, representing over 7.5 million hours of public service.

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