

## Local Schools



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# Register Online to Earn a Congressional Award

SEPTEMBER 13TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Register Online to Earn a Congressional Award

**Missouri** - The Congressional Award is the highest honor Congress bestows upon young people and offers a non-competitive opportunity for you to realize their own potential. With over 43,000 registered participants and more than 5 million hours of community service completed in pursuit of the Award established in 1979, this program nurtures a dedication to both public service and personal growth.

Participants register for the program online at [www.jasonsmith.house.gov](http://www.jasonsmith.house.gov) and then work with an adult advisor they choose to set goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Upon successful completion of the program requirements, participants are presented in state and local ceremonies with a Congressional Award certificate or medal - Bronze, Silver, or Gold.

Jason Smith is actively seeking youth ages 14 - 23 in the 8th Congressional District to enlist in the Congressional Award Program. There are no minimum grade point average requirements and the program accommodates youth with special needs and disabilities. Students already engaged in after-school activities that provide community service, improve academic skills, or develop athletic abilities may use these and many other pursuits to qualify for this special honor. Please let your students know about this award and the process to attain in.

To find out more, please go to [www.jasonsmith.house.gov](http://www.jasonsmith.house.gov) or contact a district office. Jason looks forward to seeing the many wonderful contributions the 8th Congressional

District Award participants will make through their citizenship and service.

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## Dexter R-XI Schools Receive \$10,000 Grant

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[Dexter R-XI Schools Receive \\$10,000 Grant](#)

### **Local Farmers Help Dexter RXI Win \$10,000 Grant to Improve STEM Education**

**Grant from the America’s Farmers Grow Rural Education Program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will provide enhanced learning opportunities for Dexter High School students to develop important and leading skills – helping to shape the future of agriculture**

**Dexter, Missouri** - To feed the world’s rapidly growing population and tackle many other global challenges, our country’s next generation of leaders will need to be highly skilled in the areas of science, technology, engineering and

math (STEM). That's why the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education Program, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, has awarded the Dexter R-XI School District with a \$10,000 grant.

The Dexter R-XI school district plans to use the funds to purchase high-tech probeware. The goal of the project is to increase student knowledge, skills, enrollment, and retention in STEM classes as they engage in activities, projects, and real world challenges. Students in science, math, and agriculture courses will use state-of-the-art equipment to explore concepts and linkages among STEM disciplines.

Earlier this year, farmers in the Dexter Community, nominated the district for consideration. After the nomination, the district developed its submission to enhance its STEM education offering through Maximizing Efficiencies in STEM teaching and Learning through Integrated Equipment.

Farmers who nominated Dexter were Darrel Pyle, Scott Wethington, Larry Brown, Erin Brown, Eric Mouser, Pam Mouser, Tom Hampton, Jennifer Hampton, Randy Niehaus, Pearl Niehaus, Allen Rowland, Tonda Rowland, Chris Rowland, and Ron Edwards.

Our short term goals for students include increased critical thinking, decision making, and problem solving skills as well as increased workplace skills such as collaboration and teamwork. Students will also increase their skills using the scientific method for studying concepts and laws, and the engineering design process for developing new approaches and products. For example, in physics labs groups of students may apply the scientific method to discover and test the theory underlying trajectories. By applying the engineering design process, students may plot trajectories of rocket launchers and use motion sensors to gauge results and guide the development of more cost effective prototypes of rockets and launchers. Other examples of learning activities include biology students preparing slides of plant samples to compare results relative to different growing conditions. In chemistry, students may study soil samples to determine the chemical content of soil treated with fertilizers and pesticides. Students will also make at least one field trip to a farm and observe differences in agriculture science practices for different crops. Finally, students will also participate in peer tutoring with younger students to extend their learning.

A group of science and math teachers reviewed each submission and selected Dexter R-XI as a finalist.

Next, the Program's [Farmer Advisory Council](#) , which is composed of approximately 30 farmer leaders from across the country with an interest in agriculture and education, selected Dexter R-XI for one of the Grow Rural Education Grants. Grant applications were judged based on the merit of the application, need and community support.

The America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program began in 2011. Since 2011, more than \$11 million has been awarded to over 700 rural school districts to enhance STEM education. For a complete list of winners and to learn more about the America's Farmers Grow Rural Education program, visit [www.GrowRuralEducation.com](http://www.GrowRuralEducation.com) .

### **About America's Farmers**

The America's Farmers campaign highlights the importance of modern U.S. Agriculture through communications and community outreach programs that partner with farmers to impact rural America. To learn more, visit America's Farmers at [www.AmericasFarmers.com](http://www.AmericasFarmers.com) .

### **About the Monsanto Fund**

The Monsanto Fund, the philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where farmers and Monsanto Company employees live and work. Visit the Monsanto Fund at [www.monsantofund.org](http://www.monsantofund.org) .

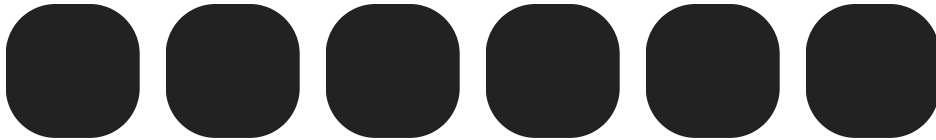
Shown in the photo are from left to right: James Myers (H.S. Science), Celeste Colley (H.S. Science), Dan Pollock (H.S. Principal), Marianne Bruce (H.S. Science), Erica Parris, Will Brehmer, Emily Mouser, Scott Wethington, Tiska Rodgers (H.S. Science), Justin Bess, Macy Graves, Allen Rowland, Malia Cook, Taylor Wealer, Bryce Simmons, Ashlynn Wyman, Derek Urhahn (H.S. AD/Asst. Principal), Logan Wyman, Tim Temples, and Macon Campbell. Not pictured was Eric Boles (H.S. Science) and Gary Wyman (H.S. Ag)

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## 2016 Miss DHS - Ashlynn Wyman

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[2016 Miss DHS - Ashlynn Wyman](#)

**Dexter, Missouri** - Ashlynn Wyman was chosen as the 2016 - 2017 Miss DHS. First runner up was Miss Caroline Powers and the second runner up was Miss Macy Urhahn.

Miss DHS is nominated by the senior class at Dexter High School. The entire high school student body votes for the Miss DHS contestant.

Ashlynn Wyman is the 17-year old daughter of Steven and Jana Wyman.

Macy Urhahn is the 17-year old daughter of Derek and Kelly Urhahn.

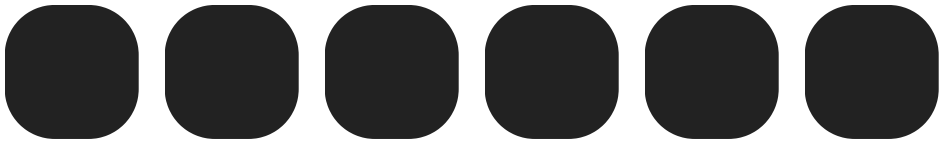
Caroline Powers is the 18-year old daughter of Charles and Felicia.

Shown in the photo from left to right is Caroline Powers, Ashlynn Wyman, and Macy Urhahn.

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## 2015 Retiring Miss DHS - Julia Hahn

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## 2015 Retiring Miss DHS - Julia Hahn

**Dexter, Missouri** - The new Miss DHS is always crowned by the retiring Miss DHS. Julia Hahn is the retiring 2015-2016 Miss DHS and was escorted by her brother Eric Hahn.

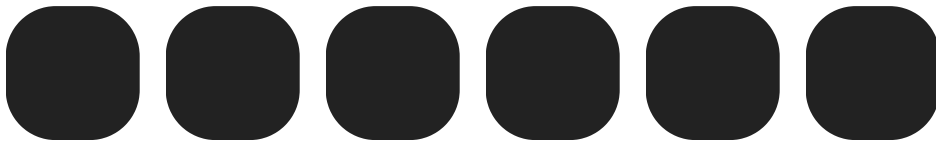
Julia is the daughter of Brad and Melissa Hahn.

She is currently attending the University of Alabama where she is majoring in Chemical and Biological Engineering.

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## 2016 Miss DHS Contestant - Ashlynn Wyman

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2016 Miss DHS Contestant - Ashlynn Wyman

**Dexter, Missouri** - The final Miss DHS Contestant of the evening was Miss Ashlynn Wyman.

Ashlynn is the 17-year old daughter of Steve and Jana Wyman.

Her activities include the 2016-2017 Student Body President, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Captain, Future Farmers of America Secretary, Honors Choir, Sr. Beta Club Executive Board, Teens Against Smoking Coalition, and Model UN. She is also a member of the varsity volleyball team, a varsity basketball cheerleader and is in the cast of the high school musical, The Wizard of Oz.

Ashlynn's future plans are to attend college, but is currently undecided on a career path.

Ashlynn was escorted by her brother, Logan Wyman.

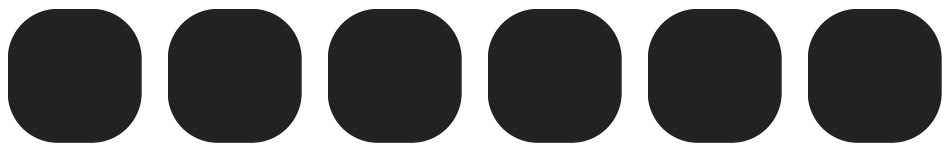
Logan is the 14-year old son of Steve and Jana Wyman.

Logan's three words to describe his sister are: Mom's FAVORITE Child!

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