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COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS AND THE ARTS

During this morning's General Session meeting, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners celebrated local high school students that exemplify excellence in academic disciplines and/or visual and performing arts. Thirty-two students from around Franklin County were recognized for their scholastic and artistic achievements. Each school district in Franklin County was invited to submit students to be recognized.

Students to be recognized include aspiring artists, dancers and musicians, budding designers, photographers and writers, National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and members of the National Honor Society.

"I am so thrilled that we are able to recognize high-achieving students from our Franklin County high schools," said Commission President Marilyn Brown. "This recognition program, in its second year, is so important. Our students deserve it. Too often the academic and artistic accomplishments of our students go uncelebrated, but no more."

The goal of Franklin County High School Artists and Scholars recognition program is to encourage students in Franklin County to strive for excellence in all areas of their school work, recognize that students learn lessons of discipline, dedication, and perseverance through their commitment to excellence in academic and creative endeavors, and serve as a means to celebrate the efforts of schools and districts to support academic and artistic excellence in their students.

"This morning we met with valuable future leaders of central Ohio, if not of our nation," said Commissioner Paula Brooks. "These were a select group of artists and scholars from throughout the county. These young people, their families and school representatives were an inspiration. I have no doubt, they will move fiercely forward into leading our next generation of the creative economy. In central Ohio, this represents upwards of \$70 million."

"High-school students in our community are accomplishing great things in the classroom, on the stage, and on the sports field," said Commissioner John O'Grady. "I am glad we now have a more inclusive recognition program to celebrate academic and artistic accomplishments along with the sports champions."

This recognition program is a partnership with the Greater Columbus Arts Council, which hosted a breakfast for the students, their families, and school representatives prior to the meeting, and mirrors the partnership between the Commissioners and the Greater Columbus Sports Commission through which local high school state champion athletes are seasonally recognized.

“We are proud to partner with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners in recognizing not only outstanding high school students who vigorously pursue arts learning and the development of their own creative skills, but also in highlighting the fine schools that support their students in those pursuits,” said Tom Katzenmeyer, President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Arts Council. “Students can follow creative paths to higher learning when schools provide comprehensive services and a complete education, which includes high-quality courses in the visual and performing arts.”

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