

For Immediate Release:

April 26, 2021

Contact:

Craig Burford, Executive Director
Ohio Educational Service Center Association
(614) 846-3855 or (614) 561-6818
Burford@oesca.org

**Ohio ESC Association to Recognize Ohio's Top Scholars
During Virtual Awards Ceremony for Second Year**

Columbus, Ohio – On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) will recognize 84 of Ohio's top students from across the state during the *32nd Annual Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Awards Program*.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year's event will be held virtually through two-way interactive video and live streamed on the Association's YouTube Channel and Facebook Live. Randy Lucas, OESCA President and Superintendent of the East Central Ohio ESC, stated, "It is too bad 13 months into the COVID-19 pandemic we still cannot all be together. Circumstances don't allow it, but we could not let that prevent us from honoring these outstanding students."

The awards program, named in honor of Ohio's 31st State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Franklin B. Walter, was established in 1989 by OESCA to promote and recognize outstanding student leaders for their academic achievement and service to their schools and communities. One senior from each county in Ohio was eligible to receive this annual honor.

Eligible applicants must be a high school senior enrolled in a public school within an ESC's service region. Recipients were required to demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and community service as indicated by high school grades, test scores, school and community activities and awards.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Paolo DeMaria will deliver this year's keynote address. "We are honored to have the State Superintendent address the students and families," stated OESCA Executive Director Craig Burford. "In order to achieve this level of success, especially during the past year, these students have demonstrated bold leadership, resilience and grit. These are the same characteristics the department and state board of education promote through '*Each Child, Our Future*' the state's strategic plan for education. We are grateful to have Superintendent DeMaria address the award winners."

Over the past 32 years, OESCA has recognized nearly 2,600 scholars and student leaders during this event. "Ohio's ESCs have over a century of service in providing technical assistance and support to Ohio's schools and students, and during this event we get to see the impact of that work," added Burford. "We look forward to our continued partnership with school district leadership and state policymakers to ensuring students have equal access to high quality educational opportunities and experiences regardless of where they live and attend school."

2021 Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award Recipients

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Adams | Preston | Grooms | North Adams High School | Florida State University | Meteorology |
| Allen | Reed | Malcolm | Shawnee High School | Northwestern University | Sociology |
| Ashland | Ty | Williams | Hillsdale High School | Hillsdale College | Biology/Pre-Med |
| Ashtabula | Alaina | Metzler | Geneva High School | Denison University | Chemistry/Spanish |
| Athens | Lourdes Benencia | Courreges | Athens High School | Undecided | Linguists |
| Auglaize | Mason | Pohl | Minster High School | The Ohio State University | Nursing |
| Belmont | Kelci | McNeal | Bridgeport High School | Vanderbilt University | Early Childhood Education & Child Development |
| Brown | Olivia | Waits | Georgetown High School | Miami University | Health Science/Biology |
| Butler | Julieta | Ramirez | Lakota West High School | The Ohio State University | Biomedical Science |
| Carroll | Cailyn | Bright | Carrollton High School | The University of Akron | Applied Mathematics/Education |
| Champaign | Grace | Forrest | Mechanicsburg High School | Malone University | Biochemistry/Pre-Med |
| Clark | Kate | Pederson | Northwestern High School | DePauw University | Marketing/Communications |
| Clermont | Madison | Brown | West Clermont High School | The Ohio State University | Political Science/Communications |
| Clinton | Carter | Stevens | Blanchester High School | The Ohio State University | Biomedical Engineering |
| Columbiana | Elizabeth | Marhefka | United High School | Kent State University | Biology |

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|-----------|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Coshocton | Bailey | Bowman | River View High School | Haverford College | English/Social Justice |
| Crawford | Simon | Shawk | Galion High School | Bluffton University | Business/Marketing |
| Darke | Lauren | Menke | Versailles High School | Case Western Reserve University | Nutrition/Pre-Med |
| Defiance | Cassandra | Mavis | Fairview High School | The Ohio State University | Agribusiness |
| Delaware | Abigail | Finch | Olentangy Orange High School | University of Charleston (WV) | Sport Analytics |
| Erie | Kamryn | Ohly | Perkins High School | Northeastern University or MIT | Computer Science |
| Fairfield | Brady | Phelps | Pickerington High School Central | Ohio University Honors Tutorial College | Computer Science/Engineering |
| Fayette | Siara | Eggleton | Miami Trace High School | The Ohio State University | Political Science |
| Franklin | Aagam | Dalal | New Albany High School | Undecided | Computer Engineering |
| Fulton | Miah | Beauregard | Fayette High School | University of Toledo | Chemical Engineering |
| Gallia | Kristen | Clark | River Valley High School | Marshall University | Criminal Justice/Legal Studies |
| Geauga | Nicolas | Sanchez | Kenston High School | The Ohio State University | Electrical Engineering/Music |
| Greene | Anna | Yang | Beavercreek High School | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Mathematics & Computer Science |
| Guernsey | Laney | Carpenter | Cambridge High School | Marietta College | Accounting |
| Hamilton | Alexandra (Lexi) | Born | Madeira High School | Undecided | Environmental Studies/Economics |

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hancock | Trinity | Lee | Findlay High School | Undecided | Political Science & Philosophy |
| Hardin | Brenna | Hissong | Ada High School | Ohio Northern University | Pharmacy |
| Harrison | Alexandra | Barcroft | Harrison Central High School | University of Akron | Biomedical Engineering |
| Henry | Sydney | Rohrs | Patrick Henry High School | University of Cincinnati | Finance |
| Highland | Emma | Stegbauer | Greenfield McClain High School | Wright State University | Nursing |
| Hocking | Selena | Zheng | Logan High School | The Ohio State University | Information Systems |
| Holmes | Brogan | Steimel | West Holmes High School | Undecided | Biochemistry |
| Huron | Zebediah | Schafer | Monroeville High School | Undecided | Psychology |
| Jackson | Owen | White | Jackson High School | The Ohio State University | Computer Science |
| Knox | Elizabeth | Clarkson | Mount Vernon High School | Grinnell College | Psychology/Math/Statistics |
| Lake | Bradley | Peters | Perry High School | Undecided | Civil Engineering |
| Lawrence | Camryn | Miller | Rock Hill High School | United States Air Force Academy | Mechanical Engineering |
| Licking | Cade | Williamson | Lakewood High School | Undecided | Journalism/Digital Media |
| Logan | Jacob | McKenrick | Benjamin Logan High School | Purdue University | Mechanical Engineering |
| Lorain | Stephanie | Machovina | Avon High School | Undecided | Biochemistry |
| Lucas | Vicky | Chen | Clay High School | Brown University | International Relations |

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| Madison | Eva | Boeckl | Jonathan Alder High School | Undecided | Chemical Engineering |
| Mahoning | Alexander | Hartsough | Austintown Fitch High School | The Ohio State University | Aerospace Engineering |
| Marion | Carson | Bollinger | River Valley High School | The Ohio State University | Occupational Therapy |
| Medina | Rachael | Robinson | Wadsworth High School | The Ohio State University | Finance/Accounting |
| Meigs | Nicholas | McConnell | Meigs High School | The United States Air Force Academy | Aeronautical Engineering |
| Mercer | Ellen | Naumann | Saint Henry High School | University of Dayton | Civil Engineering |
| Miami | Sadie | Schaeffer | Troy High School | The Ohio State University | Public Health |
| Monroe | Stephanie | Ogden | Monroe Central High School | Marietta College | English |
| Morgan | Jordan | Raines | Morgan High School | The Ohio State University | Mechanical Engineering |
| Morrow | Annabelle | Zerby | Highland High School | The Ohio State University College of Engineering | Aerospace Engineering |
| Muskingum | Cyrus | Dittmar | Tri-Valley High School | Undecided | Chemical Engineering |
| Noble | Julie | Boney | Caldwell High School | Olivet Nazarene University | Social Science Education |
| Ottawa | Alexandra | Rohloff | Oak Harbor High School | The Ohio State University | Business/Accounting |
| Paulding | Jacob | Stouffer | Wayne Trace High School | Purdue University, Fort Wayne | Civil Engineering |
| Perry | Allison Guo Kui Qiong | Baughman | Crooksville High School | Undecided | Engineering /Computer Science/Business |

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Pickaway | Gretchen | Search | Circleville High School | The Ohio State University | Biology/Pre-Med |
| Pike | Lauren | Ward | Waverly High School | The Ohio State University | Public Health |
| Portage | Taylor | Werbeck | Waterloo High School | Undecided | Nursing |
| Preble | Lauren | Schaurer | Eaton High School | University of South Carolina Honors College | Biology on a Pre-Med Track |
| Richland | Joanna | Halfhill | Lexington High School | United States Military Academy at West Point | Chemical /Nuclear Engineering |
| Ross | Sydney | Free | Union High School | The University of Toledo | Pharmacy |
| Sandusky | Halle | Elder | Clyde Senior High School | Cleveland State University | Linguistics/Spanish |
| Scioto | Ryleigh | Adkins | Valley High School | The Ohio State University | Molecular Genetics |
| Seneca | Katrina | Kagy | Seneca East High School | Miami University-Oxford | Biology |
| Shelby | Dylan | Seigle | Anna High School | University of Toledo | Mechanical Engineering |
| Stark | Julia | Schwartz | Alliance High School | Pomona College or Stanford University | Sciences |
| Summit | Sharvi | Shah | Stow-Munroe High School | University of California, Berkley or University of California, Los Angeles | Environmental Science/Biology |
| Trumbull | Abigail | Schindell | Hubbard High School | Undecided | Mathematics |

| County | First Name | Last Name | High School | College / University | Major Area of Study |
|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tuscarawas | Meredith | Lehman | Dover High School | OSU, Case Western, Kenyon or Denison | Biology |
| Union | Shelby | Jones | Fairbanks High School | Kenyon College | Biology/Neuroscience |
| Van Wert | Peter | McMaster | Lincolnview High School | Columbia University | Astrophysics |
| Vinton | Olivia | Mayers | Vinton County High School | Miami University, Oxford | Medical Laboratory Science |
| Warren | Amogh | Iyanna | William Mason High School | Undecided | Biological Sciences |
| Washington | Alyssa | Hutchinson | Belpre High School | West Virginia University | Communication Sciences & Disorders |
| Wayne | Benjamin | Haven | Wooster High School | Undecided | Aerospace Engineering |
| Williams | Trey | Whitney | Edon Northwest High School | University of Toledo | Biology/Pre-Med |
| Wood | Kyle | Kelley | Rossford High School | Kenyon College | Mathematics |
| Wyandot | Lydia | Zamora | Mohawk High School | Ohio Northern University | Pharmacy |
| | | | | | |