

**Bushnell-Prairie City  
High School**

# **ACADEMIC AWARDS NIGHT**

Wednesday, May 13, 2020



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## List of Awards and Honors

### **America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship Program**

This scholarship is awarded to high school seniors or college students who are pursuing a degree in the agriculture field. It's up to farming communities to remind students that a career in ag is beneficial to both their own personal success stories and our growing population. Applicants must also complete the National FFA Scholarship Application and must be a current member of FFA in order to receive this \$1,500 scholarship. This year's recipient is Hannah Spangler.

### **The Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) Scholarship**

This scholarship is open to high school students as well as current undergraduate students pursuing a two- or four-year degree in the field of agriculture. Students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher in order to apply for these \$5,000 scholarships. Applicants must also complete the National FFA Scholarship Application and must be a current member of FFA. This year's recipient is Tessa Sargeant.

### **2020 Art Best of Show Award**

The 2020 Art Best of Show is awarded to Jessalyn Shafer.

### **Bushnell-Prairie City Athletics Booster Club**

Each year, the Bushnell-Prairie City Athletics Booster Club awards scholarships to student athletes who understand the importance of hard work and service to their community and have demonstrated the character traits necessary to be a productive member of society. Consideration is given to the student's athletic, academic, and civic career. Due to the difficult year our seniors have encountered, all students who applied this year will be receiving a scholarship. This year's recipients of the B-PC Booster Club Scholarships are Erin Curley, Sarah Hood, Courtney Norris, Hadley Powell, and Miah Zarello.

### **Bushnell Arts Foundation**

The Bushnell Arts Foundation continues to support our art, drama, and music programs through their generous contributions, as well as awarding individual scholarships to seniors planning to study one of these areas during their post-secondary careers. This year's contributions include a Timpani Purchase for the high school band, Orff instruments and accessories for the elementary music department, the purchase of supplies including oils, paints, canvas, clay for the high school art department, and supplies including canvas, paint, paper, pencils, erasers, and more for the elementary and junior high art program. This year's art recipients are a Continuing Scholarship in Art, Maddie Turner; Scholarship in Art, Jessalyn Shafer; Scholarship Music Education, Macie Parson; and a Scholarship in Music Therapy, Courtney Norris.

## **Bushnell Odd Fellows Lodge Scholarship**

This year's recipients are Brenna Eddington and Jalyn Fayhee.

## **Bushnell Rotary Club**

The Bushnell Rotary Club is awarding scholarships to recognize the importance of continuing education, student's involvement in school and community involvement to Erin Curley, Jalyn Fayhee, Courtney Norris, and Tessa Sargeant.

## **Bushnell-Prairie City Firefighters**

The recipient of the Bushnell-Prairie City Firefighters scholarship is Tessa Sargeant.

## **Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America**

This year the Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, will award scholarships to graduating seniors within Compeer 's financial territory in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. By awarding \$1500 scholarships, the Compeer Financial Fund is helping to ensure the future of rural America for generations to come. Compeer Financial is pleased to champion the hopes and dreams of these young adults as they leave high school and go on to make a lasting impact on agriculture and rural America. This recipient showed outstanding academic achievement, wrote well-thought out essays and demonstrated well-rounded agricultural, extracurricular and community involvement. This year's recipient is Tessa Sargeant.

## **Dean & Ruth Sperry Memorial Award**

The 2020 Dean & Ruth Sperry Memorial Award is given to Kobe Martin.

## **Macomb Chapter 123 Order of the Eastern Star Scholarship**

This year's recipient of the Macomb Chapter 123 Order of the Eastern Star Scholarship is Hadley Powell.

## **Bushnell-Prairie City FFA Alumni**

The Bushnell-Prairie City FFA Alumni annually distributes two, \$250 scholarships to members of our local FFA Chapter that have shown exemplary participation in FFA, school and community activities. One of the scholarships is earmarked for a student that is continuing his or her education in the agriculture field and the other scholarship is for any post-secondary major. This year's recipients are Erin Curly and Tessa Sargeant.

## **The David S. Lorton Award**

David S. Lorton was a 1983 graduate of BPC. David worked hard and pursued a postsecondary education at Western Illinois University. Athletic, artistic, funny and fun-loving, David enjoyed his life, his family and his friends and always endeavored to be the best at whatever he was doing – be it barefoot water skiing, creating a "life like" image as a printer at the McDonough Democrat, wood working or playing a game of cards. David was married to Michele (Parks) and had two daughters, Brittni

and Gabrielle. He was employed at the McDonough Democrat where he became the Plant Manager. David died at age 30 after a hard-fought battle with Ewing's Sarcoma (cancer). This scholarship is one small way of honoring an individual whose short life made a BIG impact on many people. The recipient of this year's David S. Lorton Memorial Scholarship is Tessa Sargeant.

### **Mr. James L. Spiker Scholarship**

In honor of Mr. James L. Spiker Farmers & Merchants Bank would like to award scholarships to Erin Curley, Brenna Eddington, and Kaia Ford.

### **Jerry Merrick Scholarship**

Mr. Jerry Merrick served in the US Air Force and completed his undergraduate degree at Illinois State University and Graduate Work at Western Illinois University. He began his educational career at B-PC in 1970, teaching social studies and coaching cross country and basketball. Mr. Merrick became principal at B-PC High School in 1981 and remained in the position until his retirement in 2003. After retirement, Mr. Merrick served the City of Bushnell as an Alderman. The 2020 recipient of the \$500 Jerry Merrick Scholarship is Jaxon Hiel.

### **John T. Creasy Scholarship**

John T. Creasey was born and raised in Bushnell, Illinois attended the B-PC school system, and graduated from B-C High School in 1998. John was a leader throughout all of his school years. He was very active in school and community activities, church, 4-H and FFA. When possible, he furthered his education in animal sciences through volunteer work in the community. Upon graduating from B-PC, John entered the University of Illinois. He graduated with an animal science degree and a degree in veterinary medicine. Because of John's interest in animal science, agriculture, the continuation of education, and in the U of I, this scholarship is being offered to a B-PC High School Senior who is entering the University of Illinois majoring in agriculture and related sciences. The recipient of this year's John T. Creasy Scholarship is awarded to Erin Curley.

### **Karen VerSteeg School Spirit Award**

The 2020 Karen VerSteeg School Spirit Award is given to Kobe Martin.

### **Lucy Bonnett Christian Communications Scholarship**

The Lucy Bonnett Christian Communications Scholarship requires an applicant to have a 3.0 GPA and attend a four-year college to major in English, journalism, broadcasting, marketing, communications or a related area. The recipient of a second year of the Lucy Bonnett Christian Communications Scholarship is Charles Hensley.

### **Math Award**

This year's Math Award goes to William Hensley.

## **The Christina Hornbaker Award**

The Christina Hornbaker award is traditionally presented at the Spring Band Concert. This award is voted on by the students to determine who they think best demonstrates the “Enthusiasm, Dedication, and Pride” that Christina showed for the B-PC High School Band. The recipient of this year’s Christina Hornbaker Award is Courtney Norris.

## **Director’s Award**

The Director’s Award is often referred to by Mrs. Ferguson and Mr. Jones as the MVP award. It typically goes to the most dependable and responsible student in the group. They know that whenever a performance or rehearsal is scheduled, this person will be there with a positive attitude and a willingness to work. This Senior class is a great group of students who have shown a lot of dedication. They have persisted through many outdoor rehearsals and performances in heat, wind, cold, rain, and even snow. They have marched in parades and field contests, performed on many stages, and ridden many busses. They have seen many of their classmates go on to pursue other interests, but they remained dedicated to the Band. This year’s Directors’ Award winner for Band demonstrates a lot of enthusiasm and passion for music and for the band. They are an encouragement to both the Director and their fellow students. This award is given to Kobe Martin.

## **Director’s Award for Chorus**

Mr. Jones stated we have a couple of outstanding Chorus seniors who have participated in just about every extra opportunity since they were Freshmen. Variety Show, Conference Choir, Baccalaureate Choir, Solo and Ensemble, you name it, the same group of students were there. It has been rewarding to see these students take advantage of these opportunities, and making a decision was difficult. This student has been a reliable member with a passion for performing who always has a positive attitude. The Director’s Award for Chorus goes to Jessa Shafer.

## **Spartan Musician Award**

This is a new award that is being presented for the first time this year. We recently started recognizing those athletes who participated in three sports a year for four years. This “Spartan Musician” award recognizes a student who has taken every music class B-PC High School has to offer: 4 years of Band, 4 years of Chorus, and 2 years of Guitar. Many students have participated in both Band and Chorus for four years in the past, but this is the first student who has taken three music classes a day for two years in a row. This award goes to Macie Wilson.

## **Arion Award**

The Arion Award was established in 1948 to give national recognition to junior and senior class members chosen by their schools for outstanding achievement in band, orchestra or chorus. At B-PC, the Arion award is presented to a Chorus student. Selection for this honor is to be based on the individual's contribution to their scholastic standing or musical organization, demonstration of personal and professional performing ability and musicianship, and qualities in keeping with the

school's standards. The recipient of this year's Arion award is an excellent musician who is extremely dedicated to the B-PC music program. This student has participated in the Chorus, Band, and Guitar programs and has taken many extra opportunities to perform while a student at B-PC including ILMEA All-District Choir in both JH and High School and Solo and Ensemble contest, winning multiple "Division I" awards. This student has shown dependability and leadership in the Chorus program, always wanting the group to improve and perform their best. I truly appreciate the contribution this award recipient has made to the music program at B-PC. The 2020 Arion award for Chorus goes to Macie Parson.

### **John Philip Sousa Band Award**

The Sousa Award is the pinnacle of achievement in a high school band. Introduced in 1955 to honor the top student in the high school band, the John Philip Sousa Band Award recognizes superior musicianship and outstanding dedication.

High School Band is very demanding of your time. In addition to all of our regular performances, students have the opportunity to audition for All-District Band, participate in various Honor Bands, perform in small ensembles at Christmas, and participate in Solo and Ensemble contest.

When deciding who should receive the Sousa award, Mr. Jones says he always thinks of who has done the most to go above beyond what we already do in class. This student has developed into a very fine musician who makes good musical decisions, is always reliable, and is someone who has earned the respect and admiration of their peers. For setting a high standard for herself and for others, this year's John Philip Sousa Award goes to Courtney Norris.

### **Nicole R. Thompson Award**

The Nicole R. Thompson Award is presented to a Lady Spartan or Sparclone who shows team spirit and a desire to win through hard work and dedication. This year's Nicole R. Thompson Award recipient is Courtney Norris.

### **Prairieland Conference Award**

The Prairieland Conference recognizes a student athlete who has received a varsity letter in a Prairieland Conference sport and maintained a 3.5 or high GPA throughout his or her high school career. The 2020 Prairieland Conference Scholar Athletes from Bushnell-Prairie City High School are Erin Curley, Sarah Eden, Jaxon Hiel, Rose Morrell, Courtney Norris, Kiersten Pemble, Hadley Powell, Tessa Sargeant, and Kolbe Suter.

### **President's Award for Education Excellence**

The President's Award for Education Excellence recognizes academic success in the classroom. To be eligible, students must meet requirements including a 3.5 GPA and Principal Recommendation. This year, this award is presented to Erin Curley, Maggie Hickman, and Courtney Norris.

## **Rachel Hamilton Memorial Scholarship**

In memory of Rachel (Strode) Hamilton, her family has established the "Rachel Hamilton Memorial Scholarship." This is a \$500 scholarship. Rachel was a 1994 graduate of Bushnell-Prairie City High School. During her time as a student at B-PC, Rachel was a very active member of the Bushnell FFA chapter, holding various chapter offices. She also served as section secretary and received numerous local, section and district awards. Her primary project was beef production. Rachel was also active in band and scholastic bowl. She was class president for all four years of high school. Selection Criteria includes Agricultural involvement, academic potential, high school and community activities, community service. This year's recipient is Tessa Sargeant.

## **2020 Scholastic Bowl Awards**

Fresh/Soph Best Toss-Up Percentage - Chelsea Falter

Fresh/Soph MVP - Keith Hoyle

Varsity Best Toss-Up Percentage - Avery Eddington

Varsity MVP - Illese Rodeffer

In addition, Illese Rodeffer has been named to the Macomb Rotary All-Tournament Team, the Prairieland All-Conference Team with the most tossups in the Prairieland Conference, and the IHSA All-Sectional team.

## **Social Studies Award**

The 2020 Social Studies Award goes to Courtney Norris.

## **2020 Sons of the American Revolution**

The 2020 Sons of the American Revolution: Outstanding Citizenship Award is awarded to Kobe Martin.

## **Spartan Athlete Award**

The Spartan Athlete Award is earned by student-athletes that have participated in a fall, winter, and spring sport all four years of their high school career. The 2020 Spartan Athletes are Melissa Allen, Jaxon Hiel, Courtney Norris, Hadley Powell, Tessa Sargeant, and Miah Zarello.

The Illinois State Scholar Program identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential. The combination of exemplary college entrance examination scores and record high school achievement indicate an especially high potential for success in college. To be honored as a State Scholar in Illinois is an outstanding accomplishment. The Illinois State Scholar program is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT test scores and the sixth semester\* class size and unweighted class rank and Grade Point Average (GPA). This year's Illinois State Scholar Award Winners from Bushnell-Prairie City High School are Erin Curley, Maggie Hickman, Courtney Norris.

## **Tri-County Cattlemen's Association**

Each year the Tri-County Cattlemen's Association offers scholarships to high school seniors residing in Henderson, McDonough and Warren Counties. Criteria includes the plan to pursue a major or career in the agriculture industry and be a supporter of the beef industry in some form. Funds for the scholarship program comes from live and silent auctions at their annual banquet in February, as well as from various events where they cook beef. Over the past several years, they have been able to continue to increase the scholarship amount awarded to each winner and only hope that this continues for the benefit of youth in agriculture. The recipient of this year's Tri-County Cattlemen's Association Scholarship is Erin Curley.

## **Voice of Democracy**

The Voice of Democracy is a scholarship offered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is a \$30,000 scholarship offered at the national level with 57 places ranging from \$1000 up to \$30,000 for 1st place. All that is required is a short essay on the subject chosen by the National VFW Department. The subject for this next school year has not yet been announced but will be soon. The winners at the local level for this current school year are Erin Curley receiving \$250 and Hadley Powell Receiving \$150. Because of the continued pandemic, all of the winners will be sent a check in the mail. Parents and teachers please encourage your students to enter these scholarship contests. Students can enter all 4 years while in high school and all 3 years in junior high. This also includes home schooled students. This is one of the larger scholarships offered and a great opportunity to travel. More information will be available this upcoming school year.

## **Western Illinois University Scholarships**

The recipients of the 2020 Western Illinois University Scholarships are Sarah Eden, Jaxon Hiel, Courtney Norris, Tessa Sargeant.

## **Wolf Family Agricultural Scholarship**

The Wolf Family Agricultural Scholarship was established in 2008, in memory of Harold Wolf. He was a member of the Prairie City FFA in the 1940s and then a long-time farmer in Warren and McDonough Counties. He was a strong believer in the importance of education and encouraged each of his four children to pursue education beyond high school. With their strong grounding in agriculture primarily through FFA activities, the two students, each receiving a \$300 scholarship, show great promise for contributing to the field of agriculture as they continue their education and pursue professional careers. This year's recipients are Erin Curly and Tessa Sargeant.

## **Honor Graduates**

The following students of the Class of 2020 have earned a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and are designated as Honor Graduates: Melissa Allen, Erin Curley, Brenna Eddington, Sarah Eden, Addison English, Jalyn Fayhee, Kaia Ford, Maggie Hickman Jaxon Hiel, Kobe Martin, Rose Morrell, Courtney Norris, Macie Parson,

Kierstyn Pemble, Jacob Pool, Hadley Powell, Lily Powell, Tessa Sargeant, Jessalyn Shafer, Kolbe Suter, Kaileigh Switzer, Hailey Walters, and Miah Zarello

### **Top Ten of the Class of 2020**

The students I am about to recognize are the top ten of the graduating class of 2020. In order to be considered for top ten honors, a student must have completed sixteen academic courses from the areas of English, math, social studies, science, or foreign language. These students have been involved in virtually every student organization we have here at Bushnell-Prairie City High School. They have given unselfishly of their time and talents, and they have shown the way academically. The Top ten of the class of 2020 are: Erin Curley, Brenna Eddington, Sarah Eden, Jalyn Fayhee, Kaia Ford, Maggie Hickman, Jaxon Hiel, Courtney Norris, Hadley Powell, and Tessa Sargeant.

### **Valedictorians for the Class of 2020**

At this time, I would like to announce the Valedictorians for the Class of 2020. They are Erin Curley, Brenna Eddington, Sarah Eden, Kaia Ford, Maggie Hickman, Jaxon Hiel, Courtney Norris, Hadley Powell, and Tessa Sargent.