



2018 Ten Outstanding Young Americans Announced

JCI USA is pleased to name the 2018 Ten Outstanding Young Americans who will be honored at the 80th annual black-tie awards ceremony on Saturday, September 29, 2018, at the Doubletree by Hilton in Denver, Colo.

Each year, JCI USA recognizes the accomplishments of ten individuals who are truly outstanding in the areas of business or entrepreneurial accomplishment, political achievement, humanitarian and voluntary leadership, and more. Through an intense judging process, these ten individuals were selected from a field of nearly 50 nominations.

“The 2018 Ten Outstanding Young Americans are truly accomplished individuals in their fields, as well as in creating positive change within their communities,” said Noelle Nachreiner, 2018 National President for JCI USA. “These ten individuals represent the best and the brightest of young people in America and we should strive to emulate them in our everyday actions. Each Honoree has shown a commitment to that hope, reminding all Americans that no problem is too difficult when handled with grace, ingenuity, courage and determination.”

The JCI USA 2018 Ten Outstanding Young Americans are:

Caitlin Ahrens, 26, *PhD Graduate Student in Space & Planetary Science, NASA Solar System Ambassador, Fairmont, WV*

Dan Berei, 31, *Owner, Combat Flags, Davidson, NC*

Jeremy Harrison, 39, *Co-Founder/Chief Operating Officer, Helping Heroes: A Center for Veteran Resources, Glen Dale, WV*

Alyson Hehr, 23, *President/Founding Member, Alyson’s Angels, Wheeling, WV*

David Holt, 39, *Mayor, Oklahoma City, OK*

Major Elliott Milliken, 33, *HH-60G Pilot/Assistant Director of Operations, United States Air Force, Hahira, GA*

Daniel Pettit, 37, *CEO & President, Encompass Holdings, INC., Urbandale, IA*

Captain Zachary Purser, 30, *F-15E Weapons System Officer, United States Air Force, United Kingdom*

Veronika Scott, 27, *CEO, Empowerment Plan, Detroit, MI*

Lieutenant Colonel Bishane Whitmore, 37, *Director of Operations, United States Air Force, Roseville, CA*

About Ten Outstanding Young Americans Program

The Ten Outstanding Young Americans program (TOYA) is one of the oldest and most prestigious recognition programs in America. Annually since 1938, JCI USA has sought out young men and women (under the age of 40) who best exemplify the finest attributes of America’s youthful achievers.

Previous honorees include Bill Clinton (1979), John F. Kennedy (1946), Dick Cheney (1976), Kurt Warner (2010), Wayne Newton (1977), Gale Sayers (1969), Elvis Presley (1970), Michele Tafoya (2001), and Ruth Riley (2014).

About JCI USA

JCI USA was founded in 1920 as the original member of the Junior Chamber Movement. Our mission is to develop opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. Since that time millions of men and women have joined our ranks and have gone on to become successful in business, community and many other walks of life. JCI USA currently operates in close to 500 communities with more than 12,000 members. JCI USA is part of JCI which is comprised of close to 200,000 members in nearly 120 countries across the globe. To learn more about the Junior Chamber movement, visit www.jci.cc.

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