

SUPERINTENDENT'S POST, FEBRUARY 2019
By Chuck McCauley | Bartlesville Public Schools

Courtney Gagan, who teaches 7th Grade English at Madison Middle School, was named the Bartlesville Public Schools 2019 Teacher of the Year on February 26 at a fun red-carpet-styled evening at the Bartlesville Community Center organized by the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation and the district PIC Committee. Ms. Gagan received a \$2,500 cash award from the Schmoldt Family Foundation for Education. She also received two free round-trip airline tickets via the 11th Annual Chuck Spears Memorial Teacher of the Year Travel Award, presented by Gary Spears of Spears Travel. Tuesday evening's ceremony included the presentation of the 2019 Kurt Schmoldt Teacher Appreciation Award to Leslie Sexson, the College and Career Counselor at Bartlesville High School. Alexis Lewis, a 1st Grade Math teacher at Ranch Heights Elementary School, was named the district's Rising Star Teacher for 2019. Rita Coale of Jane Phillips Elementary School was also recognized for her 45 years of service. The Rookie Teachers of the Year were Hannah Knight, a Speech Pathologist at Ranch Heights Elementary School, and Adam Hollon, a 6th Grade Western Hemisphere Geography Teacher at Central Middle School.



Bartlesville High School students are being recognized for their academic prowess. Two seniors have advanced to Finalist status in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Aarya Ghonasgi and Liza Williams are now in competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships that will be offered this spring. Liza and another senior, Margaret Drummond, have been named among the 100 Academic All-Staters by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence out of 535 nominations this year.

BHS junior Stone Yang has been named to the State Superintendent's 2019 Advisory Council. The group represents the state's best and brightest high school leaders, and Stone certainly qualifies. He has also been invited to participate in a TEDxYouth event in Oklahoma City in April.

Thirty-three students from BHS and three from the middle schools qualified for state at the 67th annual Bartlesville District Science Fair. Everyone is excited that the state fair, which will be March 28-30, is moving to Oklahoma State University. Maha Achour, Bryce Goodin & Colton McCullough, and Kathryn McIntyre already qualified at the district fair to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix in May. We appreciate all of the corporate and professional society sponsors who make our district fair the best one in the state.

As the month of February came to a close, so did winter sports and activities. The Lady Bruins swim team recently earned its fifth consecutive state championship, with the Bartlesville girls capturing 9 of the 11 event championships at the state swim meet in Edmond on February 16. The Bruin boys swim team also did well at state. This marks the 40th swim state championship for Bartlesville, which has only been possible because of the strong support of Phillips 66 and the Splash Club.

A record number of seven Bartlesville High School wrestlers qualified for the 6A state tournament. The Strachan twins, Corwin and Brayden, led the way at state by finishing third and fourth in their classes respectively.

The Bartlesville Varsity Pom Squad traveled to Orlando, Florida where they placed second in the Large Varsity National Competition.

Six students from Bartlesville High School qualified for All-State Symphonic Band and All-State Orchestra. Thirteen students from Bartlesville High School and Central Middle School qualified as Vocal Music All-Staters.

The district had an achievement of its own when it was selected by Project Lead the Way to showcase its PLTW programs throughout the district. Only the best PLTW programs across the nation are asked to host a showcase. PLTW invited other Oklahoma school districts to come to Bartlesville and tour our Launch (elementary), Gateway (middle school), and Computer Science and Engineering Programs (high school). The eighty participants included representatives from 15 school districts, local businesses and industries, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, the Tulsa Regional STEM Alliance, and the OSU College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology.

Go, Bruins!

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