

Chris L. Nicastro
Commissioner of Education



205 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480
<http://dese.mo.gov>

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

January 9, 2012

Dear High School Principal:

In 1989, legislation was enacted by the General Assembly to create a special, state-level award to recognize outstanding achievement in citizenship by fifteen public high school seniors in Missouri each year. Under the State Board of Education's direction, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has established criteria and procedures, which will be used to select deserving students for this program, the "Missouri Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship."

The State Board of Education strongly supports this effort to recognize outstanding students. You are highly encouraged to participate in this program by sharing information about the program with members of your staff and to think about twelfth graders who may be qualified for this special honor. Each high school in a district can submit only one candidate.

The application can be found here: <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/socialstudies/citizenship.html>. Information about the application process and selection criteria for the Citizenship Award can be found on the nomination form.

The application is divided into two sections and it is important for teachers, administrators and/or community members to fully address every part of the application.

- Parts 1-4, to be completed by the principal, faculty members and/or community members
- Part 5, an essay to be completed by the student nominee.

The nomination application can be submitted in one of two ways:

- **Electronic Submission**
Please e-mail the form from an official school e-mail address to loreecurtman@dese.mo.gov.
(Please note: When submitting this form, please also submit the student essay at the same time.)
- **Mailing The Form**
Fill out the form electronically and print. Mail the form to:
Loree Curtman - Citizenship Achievement Award
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480
(Please note: If mailing the form, please print out a copy of the student essay and include with the form)

The deadline for nominations is February 10, 2012.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Missouri Bar Advisory Committee on Citizenship Education, which is assisting our staff with this project and will provide financial support for the state-level awards banquet to be held this spring. Each student selected will receive a plaque of recognition and a fifty-dollar savings bond.

Should you have any questions regarding this award, please contact Bill Gerling, Curriculum and Assessment at bill.gerling@dese.mo.gov or (573) 751-0398.

Sincerely,

Bill Gerling, Social Studies Director,
Enclosures