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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 30, 2017

Six Kansas Youth Recognized for their “If I Were Mayor” Essays

On January 25, 2017, the League of Kansas Municipalities held their annual Local Government Day event. At this event, six 7th graders received recognition for their participation in the League’s “If I Were Mayor” essay contest. The overall winner of the contest was Harley Pruetting from Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner.

Each year, the League oversees a statewide competition for all seventh-grade students in public or private school systems. The League, which represents the interests of Kansas communities, asked students what they would do if given the opportunity to serve as mayor of their town.

This year, over 1,000 students from 69 schools across Kansas participated. Harley’s essay focused on creating opportunities to involve residents in local government. Some of her thoughts for improving engagement included offering volunteer opportunities to learn about city government functions, increased social media and use of technology, and generally making it easy to converse with elected officials and city staff.

Harley’s essay represented the north east region of the state. The League presented awards to five regional winners from across the state along with the overall winner.

Local Government Day is an opportunity for city officials from around the state to gather and discuss legislative issues. In the afternoon, Kim Thomas, Mayor of Stockton, and League of Kansas Municipalities President, presented the “If I Were Mayor” winners with their awards.

Name	Region	School	Town
	Overall Statewide Winner		
Harley Pruetting	North East	Pioneer Ridge Middle School	Gardner
Haylee Schurr	North West	Wallace County Schools	Sharon Springs
Ethan Duncan	South West	Eisenhower Middle School	Liberal
Rhianna Schmidt	South Central	Sunrise Christian Academy	Bel Aire



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Zach Rose	North Central	Sylvan-Lucas Unified High School	Sylvan Grove
Regan Lattey	South East	El Dorado Middle School	El Dorado

Established by municipal officials in 1910, the League of Kansas Municipalities is a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of over 590 Kansas cities. The League works for its member cities through advocacy, legal advice, education and other services. Follow the League of Kansas Municipalities on social media, find us online on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) (@LeagueKSMunis).

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