

Education

McClain honored at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK — Jesse McClain, National Award Winner in the 2024 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the nation's longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens, was invited to New York in June 2025 to accept the honor.

McClain attended Scholastics Nationals in New York City On June 11, 2025, where he was given the Scholastics National Visions Medal at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, McClain was chosen to speak at the end of the ceremony for a moment via recorded video to all the Gold And Vision Medalists.

McClain of Washington County High School won a Gold Medal for the ceramics category "Fear of Spiders" and an additional Gold and American Visions Medal for his artwork "Ode to Andy Warhol." Other Vision Medalists that have been recognized in the past include famous names such as the actors John Lithgow and Robert Redford, artist Andy Warhol, film maker Frances Farmer, and writer Steven King.

In the 2024 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, over 100,000 teens entered nearly 340,000 original works of art and writing according to Scholastics. Approximately 90,000 regional awards were given to nearly 50,000 teens, and 2,800 works received National Medals nationwide. The competition is highly selective, with fewer than 8% of entries reaching the final round.

McClain, is an 18-year-old from Washington County. He recently graduated from Washington County High School and plans to attend the University of Kentucky College of Design in the fall. He will be majoring in Architecture with an emphasis in historical preservation and plans to minor in Art.

From a young age, he has had a passion for art, constantly drawing and experimenting with multiple media. McClain's artistic journey took a positive turn in 7th grade when he signed his first art commission with Ale8-one and went on to win over 200 art competitions on State and National levels between 7th and 12th grades. Notably, he won 27 Gold Keys awards, 9 Silver Keys, 15 Honorable Mentions, 2 Regional Vision awards, and went



Jesse McClain proudly wears his Scholastics National Visions Medal outside Carnegie Hall in New York. McClain received the medal on June 11.

on to win the National Visions Medal for 2024 from Scholastics Art and Writing Organization which has been showing art nationwide since 1923 making it the longest, one of the most difficult, and most recognized art competitions in the nation.

In addition to his art, McClain enjoys spending his free time playing piano, spending time with friends, learning new things, and helping others. He aspires to become an Architect, blending his love for Math and Art, with his passion for creativity.

ECTC brings back Kids College



SWEDA Director Daniel Carney is seen with Cody Young, ECTC Professor of Computerized Manufacturing and Machining. SWEDA donated the 3D printer seen in the photo that was used for the 3D Design course.

Kids College at ECTC is a fun way to get local youth on a college campus for some hands-on summer learning. This program has been absent for several years from the Springfield campus of Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC), but with collaboration between ECTC, Washington County Schools, and SWEDA, Kids' College returned to the Springfield ECTC campus this summer.

According to Daniel Carney, Director of SWEDA, approximately 30 students from Washington County had the opportunity to take a 4-day course, 5th-8th graders could take 3D Design with an emphasis on 3D printing, while 1st-4th graders could learn about Robotics.

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WEEK

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**Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity:** Members examined barriers faced by minority-owned businesses in Kentucky and explored practical solutions. A variety of business officials addressed key systemic challenges faced by minority owned businesses such as access to capital, discrimination, and lack of financial literacy. Commission members also heard about initiatives that have helped mitigate these barriers with competitive loan programs and networking opportunities. Emphasis was placed on building partnerships, encouraging

entrepreneurship, and creating a level playing field that allows all Kentuckians to succeed through their hard work and innovation.

**Artificial Intelligence Task Force:** Members of convened to begin the task force's second year of work, focusing on AI's growing and evolving role in Kentucky. The Kentucky Chamber of Commerce provided testimony on the status of federal and state legislation regarding AI and discussed benefits and risks of AI adoption. Members then heard from the Commonwealth Office of Technology regarding the current status of this year's Senate Bill 4, which introduced some of Kentucky's first regulatory frameworks for AI. Members discussed the importance of a consistent

federal approach, data privacy concerns, and the role of AI in education.

**Disaster Prevention and Resiliency Task Force:** Members received an update on the state's response to catastrophic flooding in April from the Division of Emergency Management. The task force also discussed how other states prepare and address natural and man-made disaster planning and how communities may better prepare for flooding.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Kim.King@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

On Wednesday, July 23rd

The Springfield Sun

**Court reads budget amendment to raise salaries at Sheriff's department**

**Springfield City Council approves child day care amendment**

**SUMMER FUN AT THE LIBRARY**

**Trial for child sexual abuse case set to begin**

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