

**DATE:** August 9, 2016

### Senior Honored at National Event

Dripping Springs High School senior Miranda McShan and her family recently attended the National PTA Reflections awards ceremony at Walt DisneyWorld in Orlando, Florida. Miranda's piece, "The Universe is the Limit," advanced to the national competition after being selected to receive an Overall Award of Excellence as the top entry in the state of Texas for the High School Visual Arts category. This year's theme was "Let Your Imagination Fly."

This past school year, nearly 300,000 students in more than 8,000 schools across the country and in U.S. schools overseas contributed their original works to be considered for PTA's highest honor in the arts. This past spring, a panel of experts reviewed more than 1,000 national round submissions. Out of those 1,000 national finalists, 206 of the most creative works were awarded from the 2015-16 school year.

At the national awards ceremony, Miranda was presented with an Award of Merit in the high school visual arts division for her piece, which used a "scratch-board" technique. She received a silver medallion and certificate with recognition in the traveling art exhibit and online gallery. She participated in the parade of champions opening ceremony and her artwork was on exhibit throughout the event. All award-winning works will be revealed at the National Art Exhibit Opening Ceremony at the U.S. Department of Education on Jan. 10, 2017, in Washington, DC.

Miranda is an AP art student at DSHS who has medaled at UIL VASE the past three years and advanced to state VASE in 2015-16. Miranda plans to major in graphic design and will be applying to the University of North Texas, hoping to attend their College of Visual Arts in the fall of 2017. "I would like to thank the Dripping Springs PTA Reflections committee, my art teacher Mr. Bates, and Dripping Springs ISD for their encouragement and support," she said.

