



Allyn Schwinn

SCHOLARSHIP

At the Kansas City Classic, we've been pleased to award a scholarship every year to an applicant that meets the eligibility requirements and stands apart from the other applicants in the areas of dance, academic achievement, community involvement, and the emulation of qualities of the scholarship's namesake: Allyn Schwinn. Past recipients include:

*Melody Roberts, Raymore-Peculiar High School, UMKC Law School
Megan McMichael, St. Pius X High School, Truman State University
Olivia Wheat, Lee's Summit North High School, Drury University
Ashtyn Scruggs, Lee's Summit North High School, University of Missouri
Elizabeth Lannin, Hickman High School, University of Iowa
Maddie Hoffman, Lee's Summit High School, University of Central Missouri
Julia Kemp, Mill Valley High School, Kansas State University
Linsey Rogers, Olathe North High School, Avila University
Megan Broomfield, Notre Dame de Sion, University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

About Allyn Schwinn



by Melanie Dailey

For 30 years Allyn Schwinn worked in the cheer and dance industries. She was the Vice President of the International Cheerleading Foundation before branching off and starting her own companies: Cheer and Dancz America. It was under this brand that I worked for her from 1988 to 2000. Those of us that had the privilege of working for her benefited from her unconditional support and understanding, her positivity and quick

wit, and her vibrant personality and style. She “leaned in” and was the queen of the “side hustle” before those phrases were part of our lexicon. Dancz America was the largest company of its kind, teaching camps to high school dance teams at college campuses across the country, and was the first to launch a successful instructional video program that changed the industry for cheer and dance. While accomplishing all of this with Cheer and Dancz America, she also served as the President of the National Film Society, a nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of America’s film heritage by organizing an annual awards ceremony and publishing the magazine *American Classic Screen*. Her predecessor as President of the National Film Society so very accurately referred to her as “redoubtable,” a word that means formidable, illustrious, eminent and worthy of respect, and I couldn’t agree more. She certainly wasn’t afraid to take on responsibility and challenges, so adding the title of Vice President of Jan Stenerud & Company to her already hefty resume was natural and automatic for her. With this company, she was instrumental in the manufacture and distribution of a soccer-style football kicking tee that’s still in use today. It wasn’t until I started my own company, Larkspur Dance & Choreography, and tried to make it successful while still balancing other areas of my life and other passions, that I fully came to know and respect all the accomplishments of Allyn. In my young mind, I knew she did all this “stuff” while looking like she just walked off the set of *Dynasty*. As a full-fledged grown-up, I can now appreciate how she assumed all these roles in a fashion that appeared effortless, but actually required so much work, dedication, and a tireless spirit. She had only gotten to enjoy a well deserved retirement for nine short years when in January 2009 our dear Allyn suffered a massive stroke, leaving the left side of her body paralyzed. She is working vigorously to walk again, and she continues to improve in therapy. She suffered a setback with a cancer diagnosis, but in true Allyn fashion, she has gotten beyond that and is now focusing on therapy to utilize her left side once again. She has approached these hurdles with the most admirable courage, grace, and humor, and we are so pleased that we can honor her in this way and award this \$500 scholarship to a student who emulates these qualities.



Allyn presenting an award to Bette Davis from the National Film Society



Allyn and her husband on their wedding day

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Scholarship Information

Eligibility

Any current high school senior who is participating in the Kansas City Classic is eligible to apply for this scholarship. A 2.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale is also required, along with plans to continue education or training beyond high school in any accredited training, licensing or certification program, or institution of higher education.

Selection

A selection panel consisting of outside professionals, dancers, educators, and parents will select the winner. Decisions will be based on the submitted statement written by the student illustrating the following:

- past, current, and future dance involvement
- academic achievement
- community involvement
- recommendation letter written by an adult who is not serving as the legal guardian of the student, and who works with the student in the academic, community, or dance environment.

Identities of students, their current schools, and their intended institutions of higher learning will be concealed from the selection panel, so that decisions will be based solely on the written statements and recommendation letters.

Decisions of the judges are final. Winners will be contacted prior to the competition, included in the Kansas City Classic program, and also announced during the Kansas City Classic awards ceremony. Information will be given to the winner regarding payment of the scholarship.

Instructions

1. Complete the application form completely and obtain necessary signatures from the writer of the recommendation letter and the school official verifying GPA.
2. Student is to write a statement addressing each of the following criteria: any special talents, leadership, community involvement, goals, dance involvement, and reasons the student should be selected for the scholarship.
3. Selection committee will also consider the quality of the written statement. Statements must be in paragraph form, typed, and no longer than two single sided, single spaced pages.

4. Applicants need to submit a photo of themselves along with their applications, recommendations and written statements. The winner's photo will be featured in the Kansas City Classic program. An actual printed photo can be submitted in the mail to be scanned, or a jpg file can be emailed along with applications. Applications, recommendation letters, photos and written statements must be attached and mailed together or emailed together. Please do not email portions and mail others. No applications received after November 25, 2019 will be considered. Please keep in mind that this does not mean POSTMARKED by November 19th. This means we must have physical possession of the application, recommendation letter, and written statement by November 25, 2019. Applications received after this date will not be considered for the scholarship.

Mailing address: Larkspur Dance & Choreography
PO Box 901926
Kansas City, MO 64190-1926

Email address: melanie@larkspurdance.com
Subject line: Scholarship

Phone number: (816) 516-0106

2018 ALLYN SCHWINN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. Student Information:

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Home Address City State Zip

Email address for student or parent

(____) _____ (____) _____
Student Phone Parent or secondary phone

School Name

School Address City State Zip

Date of Birth M _____ F _____
Gender

2. Intended area of study:

Name of school you will attend:

3. Grade point average verification: (This section must be completed by a school official only.)

I, _____, certify that _____
(Print name of official) (Print student's name)
has a cumulative GPA of _____ on a 4.0 scale.

Signature Title Date

4. Reference letter written by:

Last Name First Name Association to student

(____) _____ (____) _____
Daytime Phone Cell Phone