

2014 Youth Leadership Award Nomination
Missouri Community Betterment
Nominee: Taylor Largent
Community: Clinton

Young leaders and positive role models are not easily found. It takes a special individual to speak up when the time is right, and also walk the fine-line of delegation and leading by example. With a heart of gold and a passion for leading and motivating others, Taylor Largent is this person. Her strength to guide a crowd through empowerment and cooperation coupled with her humble nature not only make her an excellent leader, but a valuable asset to our community.

A 2014 National Honor Society student and graduate of Clinton High School, Taylor Largent has played a large part in the growth and development of the Clinton School District and the community as a whole. As a young lady who has lead a self-described "stable life," Taylor recognizes the adversity some of her peers have faced and is intent on making a positive change in the world. Taylor's family has been a recognizable force in the world of foster care, which taught Taylor from a young age the importance of providing a voice to those who are seldom heard. Taylor is intelligent and strong on every level, and her first hand knowledge of the foster care system has shown her the importance of empathy and understanding. She has decided to play to her strengths and experiences and make a positive change in the community that she calls home. Her resume is quite impressive and has undoubtedly laid the footwork for her to succeed at the collegiate level and achieve her goal of becoming an attorney.

As a Clinton High School student, Taylor has taken on leadership roles in Student Council, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), band and yearbook. Taylor was accepted as an upper-classman to take part in a freshman mentor program, which provides an outlet for incoming freshmen to feel welcomed, ask questions, receive help on homework and acclimate to their new school. Taylor's warm, caring personality was perfect to transition students to the

foreign world of a new school. She provided tutoring and advice to all students in her group, and did so with patience and enthusiasm. During this time, Taylor also juggled softball, track, and the statistics for the boys' basketball team to round out her extra-curricular activities during each season.

Through her four years at Clinton High School, empowering and motivating her peers came naturally, and as a senior, Taylor accepted the challenge of becoming Student Body President. As she had done many times before, she exceeded the expectations passed down from leaders before her. She excelled at coordinating events, managing a budget, and directing the high energy of her classmates toward fundraisers and school-improvement projects.

Outside the classroom is where Taylor is able to let her light shine as a community activist. She has repeatedly participated in the Adopt-A-Highway trash pickup program, lead activities at Vacation Bible School, and volunteered her time at the local Samaritan Center. Residents of Clinton recognize that these projects are more than a bullet-point on an application, but projects she passionately returns to year after year. Her desire to give her free time to those in need is a truly unique character trait.

It is easy to get caught up in Taylor's overwhelming list of activities and positive contributions, but it is essential to read between the lines and see that she is a truly driven and motivated individual who strives for the greater good. Her optimistic spirit and willingness to roll up her sleeves and work harder than those around her is what makes her such an asset to the Clinton community. It is with great pride and pleasure the citizens of Clinton, Missouri nominate Taylor Largent for the 2014 Youth Leadership Award.