



**Address:** 3333 N. Shartel, Oklahoma City 73118

**Contact:** Linda Lightner

**Telephone:** 405-702-4322

**Email:** [llightner@hfaaokc.org](mailto:llightner@hfaaokc.org)

**Website:** <http://hardingfinearts.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/hfaaokc>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Harding Fine Arts Academy Students Receive Awards for Arts Excellence**

Seventeen students from Harding Fine Arts Academy charter high school have been selected to receive a State Superintendent Award for Arts Excellence. These juniors and seniors were chosen by Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Alliance for Arts Education, and the Masonic Fraternity of Oklahoma for achieving artistic and academic excellence in their chosen field of excellence. Four students have been selected from the dance category, nine students were chosen for their drama skills, two for their instrumental music skills and two for visual art.

The students, along with the school boards, school administrators, and fine arts educators who have exhibited leadership in the schools and communities throughout Oklahoma, were recognized during the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual State Superintendent Awards for Arts Excellence. The award ceremony took place at the Scottish Rite Temple Masonic Temple in Guthrie on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.



Harding Fine Arts Academy students being honored this year were Tamia Colbert (Junior), Rylee Goetzinger (Senior), Keyveontae' Martin (Junior), and Chloe Woods (Junior) for Dance. Whitney Clear (Junior), William Day (Junior), Lexi Hurley (Senior), Abigail Morris (Senior), Jadyn Powell (Junior), Clare Schmelzenbach (Senior), Sean Smith (Senior), Madylyn Smith (Senior), and Aaron Traylor (Senior) were honored for their achievements in Theatre/Drama. Madison Aelmore (Senior) received honors for Orchestra and Elena Figueroa (Junior) for Piano. Alyx Johnson (Senior) and Rayna Shaw (Senior) received honors for Visual Art.

“Especially for a school of our small size, we are exceedingly proud to have 17 students from five different categories honored this year!” said Barry Schmelzenbach, Harding Fine Arts Academy School Principal. “It is most definitely a credit to our passionate and talented teachers who work tirelessly with our students to help them develop their individual skills!” he said.

Harding Fine Arts Academy is an Oklahoma City charter school that prepares high school students for college in an academically challenging, arts-integrated environment and has been named a 2015 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Harding Fine Arts Academy was recently named a Governor’s Arts in Education Award winner and recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of top three public high schools in the state of Oklahoma.

###