

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF SENIOR RECEIVES HONOR FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF

Austin, Texas – Sep 10, 2015 As future leaders are returning to school for another new year, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) has recognized a Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) student from Austin, Texas - Jasi Kennedy - for this month's #NADHandwave.

TSD is especially proud of Kennedy and commends the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) for recognizing Kennedy's budding leadership, calling special attention to her testimony before the Texas State Legislature last session. In front of state lawmakers, Kennedy emphasized to the importance of preserving the Texas School for the Deaf and continuing to support the school's exemplary educational programs for deaf and hard of hearing students.

The NAD's commendation states that, "this particular accomplishment came naturally to Kennedy following experiences watching her parents' involvement in the community and legislative activism.

Kennedy is the third generation in her family to attend TSD where she is currently a senior. Kennedy's high school years have been full of accomplishments. During her freshman and sophomore years, she was the first deaf person to serve on the Downtown Austin District Youth Council, along with eight other district representatives. Additionally, as the president of the student chapter of the Junior NAD at TSD, Jasi represented TSD at the Jr. NAD conference in Washington, DC in 2013, and attended the NAD Youth Leadership Camp in Oregon over this past summer.

At TSD, Kennedy is involved in various activities where she is currently serving as an officer in TSD's student body government. Kennedy has performed on stage at TSD and with DeafAct, and she was the TSD high school's prom chairperson last spring. As part of her international studies at TSD, Kennedy also has had the opportunity to travel abroad, visiting India and Peru, and plans a trip to Cuba next year. After graduating from TSD, Kennedy will attend college at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York."

TSD joins the NAD in wishing Kennedy good luck as she embarks on her senior year at TSD, and together, TSD and the NAD anxiously look forward to her continued leadership in the years to come.

The National Association of the Deaf takes the opportunity to recognize exemplary people for the work they do by awarding monthly #NADHandwaves to outstanding citizens in the Deaf community.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF (NAD)

The NAD was established in 1880 by deaf leaders who believed in the right of the American deaf community to use sign language; to congregate on issues important to them; and to have its interests represented at the

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national level. As a nonprofit federation, the mission of the NAD is to preserve, protect, and promote the civil, human, and linguistic rights of deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States. The advocacy scope of the NAD is broad, covering the breadth of a lifetime and impacting future generations in the areas of early intervention, education, employment, health care, technology, telecommunications, youth leadership, and more. For more information, visit <http://nad.org/>.

ABOUT THE TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (TSD)

The Texas School for the Deaf is the oldest continuously operating public school in Texas. Educating deaf and hard of hearing students of Texas since 1856, the campus also provides outreach and educational resources for students, their families and professionals in the field throughout the state of Texas. With educational excellence and a strong belief in a culture and community at TSD, students form a unique identity based on their individual strengths and talents. TSD is an environment where students learn, grow, and belong. For more information about the Texas School for the Deaf, visit <http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/>.

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