

*From the
Community,
To the Community*

WESTCHESTER ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

紐約威郡華人協會

www.wacany.org



The Westchester Association of Chinese Americans

**WACA Outstanding Student Leadership and
Community Service Award Program**

September 3, 2017

WACA



1. The Purpose of the Program

Young people are the future of this country and also a vital part of our local community. Over the years, various admirable traditions came into existence in which many vibrant, energetic, and highly motivated high school students from our Westchester County and surrounding areas, either initiated or offered outstanding community services and programs. Some of them are living in our midst, attending one of our local Chinese schools. Their outstanding academic achievements, leadership, and busy extracurricular activities, and their contribution to the local Asian communities, have set up excellent role models for all of us. The Westchester Association of Chinese Americans (WACA), is one of the local organizations with a 28 year tradition of serving the Asian communities in the Westchester area. Every year since 2009, WACA has sponsored the **WACA Outstanding Student Leadership and Community Service Award Program** to recognize those students who have done an outstanding community service and exemplified leadership to other students.

The aforementioned Program this time around will cover the 2017-2018 school year.

2. Participating Schools

The Chinese School of Southern Westchester
Huaxia Chinese School of Greater New York
Huaxia New York Central Chinese School
HX Scarsdale Chinese School
New York Chinese School
Northern Westchester Chinese School

Other students who are high school seniors in the Westchester area and are learning Chinese and actively participating in community services

3. Eligibility

Qualified students include current high school seniors who are currently registered in/graduated from one of the Chinese schools listed above (or who are learning Chinese in another local school), and have demonstrated outstanding qualities in the following areas:

- A. Academics in English school and Chinese school
- B. Leadership and Extracurricular Activities
- C. Community Services

4. Application Submission Deadline

October 20, 2017 is the submission deadline for **WACA Outstanding Student Leadership and Community Service Award Program Application**



5. Candidates' nomination and application process

- (1) Each Chinese school may nominate up to **4** candidates who meet the eligibility requirements.
- (2) Students who are eligible and interested in applying but are not attending a Chinese school must seek a nomination by their English school. Their application should be submitted through the English School.
- (3) Each school should submit the nomination letter with the candidate's application and supporting materials.
- (4) All applications (including scanned materials) should be emailed to the following email address:
nywaca@gmail.com
by the **submission deadline of October 20, 2017.**
- (5) Each candidate's application should include:
 - **WACA Outstanding Student Leadership and Community Service Award** Application Form
 - Nomination letter from the Chinese school or English school
 - A transcript of grades, PSAT, SAT/ACT, and AP score reports, as well as any academic excellence certificates, etc.
 - A record of grades from the current Chinese school, if applicable
 - A summary of extracurricular activities detailing leadership positions, achievements, and/or awards received for the student's involvement in school clubs, community service, science research, sports, art and the pursuit of other talents.
 - A Written Personal Statement (in English of 200 words or less) of the candidate's higher education and professional objectives.

6. Award Program Committee

A seven or nine member Award Committee chaired by a WACA Board Director will administer the Award Program. Each Chinese school is graciously asked to send one representative to participate as a member on the Award Committee. WACA Board appoints the rest of the Committee Members. Committee Members can be WACA Board Directors or any other independent individuals who boast high integrity and outstanding service records to the local community.

7. Winner Selection Procedure

- (1) The Award Committee will hold the adjudication meeting after the application deadline.
- (2) Committee Members will review each application separately. They will rate the candidates on each subject area using a 100-point scale based on the WACA Student Award Score Guidelines. To guarantee fairness of the review process, the candidates' names will be concealed before their applications reach the Committee Members. Their



scores will also be recorded on the Candidate Score Sheet. The sum of these subject area scores will constitute the total score for the candidate.

- (3) Once the application review process is completed, the Candidate Score Sheets will be collected and grouped under each applicant.
- (4) To determine the final score awarded to each candidate, the Committee will drop the highest and lowest scores recorded on the Candidate Score Sheets, and calculate the average of the remaining scores.
- (5) The candidates with the first three highest scores will be selected as the 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place winners.
- (6) If two candidates tie for a winner position, the Committee will vote to select the final winner.
- (7) The Award Committee's final decision on the winners will be submitted to the WACA Board of Directors for final approval.

8. Award Presentation

- (1) The award winners will be announced prior to November 1st of every year.
- (2) A cash award of \$300 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd place and \$200 for 3rd place, together with a Certificate of Distinction, will be presented to the winners at the Chinese New Year Celebration held on February 10, 2018 at Performing Arts Center in Purchase College by the President of the Westchester Association of Chinese Americans.
- (3) The awardees need to attend the WACA Chinese New Year Festival on February 10, 2018 to receive the awards. The 1st place winner will be asked to give a 1-2 minute speech at the award presentation ceremony.

9. WACA Board Awards Program Statement

- (1) Children of the current WACA board members are not eligible to apply for WACA own Award program to avoid the possibilities of conflicts of interest.
- (2) The Program will also be posted on WACA website (www.wacany.org)
- (3) If you have any questions and suggestions about this Award, please contact:
WACA Student Award Committee
Attn: Li Pan
nywaca@gmail.com
- (4) The Board of WACA has the exclusive right to establish, explain, change, and cancel the rules and processes of this Award Program.