



Anasheh Partiai (left), assistant director of the Sterling Stars, and Jamie Lumpkin (right), director, congratulate Jovonne Ledet, Stars colonel, on receiving the top scholarship at the Texas Dance Educators Association 2016 All-State Convention.

Ledet Wins Top TDEA Scholarship

Jovonne Ledet, colonel of the Sterling Stars Dance/Drill Team at Ross S. Sterling High School received the highest scholarship awarded at the recent Texas Dance Educators Association 2016 All-State Convention in The Woodlands at the Marriot Waterway Hotel and Convention Center.



JOVONNE LEDET
RSS Stars Colonel

High school dance and drill teams throughout Texas sent their top officer to attend the four-day event, which culminated with the participants performing together for their directors and other guests as an All-State Dance Team. Jamie Lumpkin, director, and Anasheh Partiai, assistant director, accompanied Ledet to the convention. After the performance, the Stars colonel was named the \$2,500 scholarship winner.

“It was definitely exciting, because any money towards

Ledet’s dance training began at the age of five at The Dance Center of Baytown (TDC), and she has continued to train in all styles of dance through her senior year. Dancing competitively with TDC, she attended numerous dance workshops, including Tremaine, where she was awarded dance scholarships in 2009 and 2015. Her love for dance spread to others as she helped start the first dance team at the junior school level with Aly Hans, former Star field officer, as a student at Gentry Junior.

As a member of Stars, she was selected as a solo finalist at both contests the Stars competed in her freshman and sophomore years and was named Most Outstanding Freshman/Sophomore and Sophomore Star Ball Duchess. This contest season, she was again a solo finalist at both contests.

“Jovonne has confidence in herself and in her ability to lead, which will take her far in life with interviews and in her career,” said Lumpkin.

Besides Stars, Ledet has been involved in Student Council

college is a really big thing for me," said Ledet.

The convention included workshop sessions as well as professional choreography sessions. This year, Yoshi Pineda, an international dancer and aerialist, choreographed the All-State Dance performance. The intense dance classes provided additional experience for Ledet, who has not decided on a college but plans to audition for the dance teams at Arizona State University, the University of Texas and Texas A & M University.

Lumpkin has been pleased with Ledet's dance and leadership ability, and she also admires her motivational leadership style. During contest season, Ledet was responsible for polishing the field officer routines, ensuring that they were performance ready.

"It was incredible watching her work come to life as they kept improving," said Lumpkin. "Her leadership shines, not only through the team, but through the field officers as well."

Besides Stars, Ledet has been involved in Student Council and Key Club. She also has competed at the state level of the National History Day contest. Inducted into the National Honor Society, she has served as a member of Peer Assistance and Leadership and was named Homecoming Princess. In June, she will graduate in the top 2 percent of her class. Ledet is the daughter of Joseph and Ivonne Ledet.

"One attribute I can say, undoubtedly, that drill team has added to my character is perseverance. Being around so many incredible dancers so often inspired me to work harder and push myself to new heights," said Ledet in her essay for TDEA. "After I leave the team, I know that no matter what challenge I face in my future, there is no obstacle too difficult for me."

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