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## **BOGDANA OLIYNYK WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Bogdana Oliynyk from Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI) won Sister Cities International's 2015 Youth Leadership Award. The Youth Leadership Award honors an exemplary youth volunteer for contributions to the sister city movement and recognizes the leadership and talent that benefit local sister city programs and the larger sister city network.

Miss Oliynyk's involvement began at an early age as a committed participant in FWSCI's programs. Her involvement includes membership in the youth council of FWSCI as well as participation in projects that further youth programs. She has hosted students from Fort Worth's sister cities and has been a leader in scholarship programs that help students receive financial assistance to participate in youth programs.

Miss Oliynyk has been involved in her school summer program, Breakthrough, for many years. Outside of FWSCI, she has been involved in Whiz Quiz, is a math tutor, plays soccer, and is president of her volleyball club. She has studied the piano for five years, is CPR certified, is active in her church's youth department, and was the president of her school's Health Fair. Miss Oliynyk is on the A Honor Roll and is a member of the National Honor Society. Miss Oliynyk is fluent in Ukrainian and semi-fluent in Russian, Japanese, and Korean.

Miss Oliynyk was one of the 2014 recipients of the Harashin Scholarship, a reciprocal program with Fort Worth's sister city, Nagaoka, Japan. This scholarship program was funded by a Japanese businessman, the late Sinichi Hara after his granddaughter participated in Fort Worth's International Leadership Academy. This scholarship is an exchange program that allows Fort Worth students to travel to Nagaoka and stay with a homestay family.

Miss Oliynyk is an exemplary youth ambassador and role model to her peers.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, July 18 during Sister Cities International's 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Sister Cities International 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss, "Building Generations for Peace." Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2015 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: [www.SisterCitiesConference.org](http://www.SisterCitiesConference.org).

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### **About Sister Cities International**

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 545 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over 2,100 communities in 145 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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