

## Buchholz High student wins national ‘Young Heroes’ Award

Rising Buchholz High School senior Briana Berger is one of just 21 young people nationwide to be named a winner of the Young Heroes Award sponsored by TD Bank and the National Liberty Museum. According to the museum’s website, the award honors people 18 and under “who have taken action to make positive social change in their schools and communities.”

“Each year we look for young people who have championed liberty through civic engagement, conflict resolution, diversity promotion and school or community leadership,” said Gwen Borowsky, Executive Director of the National Liberty Museum. “These winners truly represent what we at the National Liberty Museum strive for every day—encouraging people of all ages to find their own place in the story of liberty.”



This is the second national recognition for Berger in just a few months. In March she was recognized as one of fifty winners of the 2017 National Award for Aspirations in Computing by the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT).

This time around, Berger is being honored for her work helping other young people, especially girls, develop the skills and passion for computing that have helped her achieve success. She founded coderGirls, her international organization aimed at getting girls interested in computers and coding by linking those skills with the interests of the participants and community service. The organization has chapters in the U.S., Japan, Bangladesh, Ukraine and other nations. Berger is also implementing chapters and the curriculum in schools and organizations nationwide, reaching more than half a million girls. She’s currently working with the National Girl Scouts of America to have her organization’s courses used in their computer science curriculum and even create a coding badge that members can strive for.

Only thirteen such projects nationwide are being recognized at an awards ceremony at the National Liberty Museum in Washington, D.C. on August 10. The students responsible for those projects will receive a certificate, medallion and other gifts, and their stories will be featured for the next year in one of the museum’s exhibits. Ultimately one of the students will be named the President’s Honor Winner, which carries a monetary prize.

Whether or not she takes the President’s award, Berger says she’s thrilled to be among the select group of Young Heroes Award winners.

“It shows that what I’m doing means something and that people support me in my journey to get more girls into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math,” she said. “It definitely encourages me to keep going with that work.”

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