



# **PRESS RELEASE**

*The American Legion Boys State of Missouri, Inc.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*September 2016*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Contact: MBS Headquarters**  
**1-877-342-5627**

## **MARE SPONSORS STUDENTS TO ATTEND 77<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF MISSOURI BOYS STATE**

(WARRENSBURG, MO) – **Tyler Jared Dunn** from Lawson High School and **Thomas Lee Queen** from Weaubleau High School, both sponsored by the Missouri Association of Rural Education, were among 985 outstanding Missouri students to participate in the 77<sup>th</sup> session of The American Legion Boys State of Missouri program held June 18-25 on the campus of the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.

Missouri Boys State is designed to educate and train young leaders in functional citizenship, leadership, and government. The student leaders, “citizens”, combine their knowledge and skills to build an entire operational state government in a single week which includes electing city, county, and state officials. Boys State is a pure democracy in that all citizens may vote and are eligible to hold office. Participants fully engage in activities during the eight-day program as they gain an understanding of government, learn about their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and enhance their leadership and citizenship skills.

**Dunn** and **Queen** were nominated to attend this once in a lifetime experience by their high schools and selected based on their academics, leadership, citizenship, and character. As a sponsor, the Missouri Association of Rural Education afforded **Dunn** and **Queen** the opportunity to participate in *A Week to Shape a Lifetime - Missouri Boys State* by funding the program fee.



**Dunn** (son of Tammy and Todd Dunn) participates in the A+ Program, is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, Pep Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Young Life, and Youth Group. He is on the Honor Roll and has earned an Academic Letter and the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. **Dunn** is a Scholar Athlete and participates in Baseball, Basketball, and Football. He also serves as a Class Officer and a Mentor. During the week of Boys State, **Dunn** was a Citizen

of Lewis City and a Member of the Nationalist Party. He was elected by the citizens of Lewis City and actively served as a member of the City Council creating city ordinances. He attended the Public Administration School where he learned the basics of city government and the role of a City Council member.

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**Queen** (son of Karla and Marc Dye) participates in Future Farmers of America, Academic Bowl, Quiz Bowl, and Scholar Bowl. He is a member of the History Club, Math Club, and Science Club. He is on the Honor Roll and has earned an Academic Letter. **Queen** is also a Scholar Athlete, participates in Basketball, and is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In addition, he is employed. At Missouri Boys State, **Queen** was a Citizen of Blair City and a Member of the Nationalist Party. He attended the Public Administration School and was elected a member of the City Council where he assisted with city projects and beautification efforts. He also served as the City Party Secretary; Beverage Commissioner; and Ward Committeeman, Ward I.

During Boys State and along with all participants, **Dunn** and **Queen** were involved in a wide variety of educational and recreational activities and heard inspirational talks from and asked questions of both state and national leaders. Speakers for the 2016 session included: Missouri Governor Jay Nixon; Lt. General Martin R. Steele (USMC, Retired); Kansas City Mayor Sly James; Former Kansas City Royals Player and Jackson County Legislator Frank White; Former Missouri Governor Bob Holden; Senior Vice President, Centene Corporation Mark Eggert (Missouri Boys State 2016 Alumnus of the Year); and the 2016 GOP Governor Candidates.

The entire Boys State staff is comprised of educational, legal, professional, and civic leaders who volunteer their time each year. Missouri Boys State is a 501(c)(3) organization and is a Missouri American Legion program. Students have the opportunity to participate in this nationally recognized program due to sponsors, like MARE. Sponsors are critical to the continued success of the program since students and their families are not allowed to pay any portion of the program fee. Organizations, businesses, and individuals interested in becoming a sponsor are encouraged to contact the Missouri Boys State Headquarters at 1-877-342-5627.

Students who will be juniors during the 2016-17 academic year and are interested in participating should contact their High School counselor or visit the Missouri Boys State website at [www.moboystate.org](http://www.moboystate.org). The 2017 session will be held June 17-24. Informational presentations by a Boys State staff member may be requested by contacting the Missouri Boys State Headquarters at 1-877-342-5627 or email [bettie.rusher@moboystate.org](mailto:bettie.rusher@moboystate.org).

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