



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Two Towson High School representatives honored at National Art Education Association Convention

*Awards received by a student and a student teacher*

Towson, Md. – Towson High School had two moments in the spotlight at last week's National Art Education Association (NAEA) Convention in Minneapolis, Minn. Senior Ray Aoki received the NAEA's 2024 Rising Stars Secondary Recognition Program Award, and Grace Harrison received the NAEA 2024 Eastern Region Pre-Service Art Educator of the Year Award.

Aoki is a leader in Towson High's National Art Honor Society, an Advanced Placement Art student, and a participant in the Teacher Academy of Maryland. The prestigious award he earned, determined through a peer review of nominations, promotes art education as a career by recognizing talented, active National Art Honor Society members.

In nominating Aoki for the honor, Towson High Visual Arts Department Chair Lindsay Miller wrote: "Ray is an exceptional young artist with a passion for art education that is both inspiring and promising. He has consistently demonstrated an exceptional level of talent, creativity, and a deep understanding of various art forms. What truly sets Ray apart is his unwavering commitment to sharing his love for art with others. His commitment to the arts and his potential to make a significant impact on the field of art education makes him a deserving candidate for this esteemed recognition."

Harrison is a pre-service educator completing her master's degree in art and teaching at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). Her interest in art education began when she taught at two schools in outside of Baltimore County. She is completing her student teaching placement with Miller at Towson High School. Harrison will graduate from MICA in May 2024.

*(Editor's note: Photos of [Aoki](#) and [Harrison](#) can be found on Flickr.)*

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