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Grassroots Citizens will honor Spring Green activist with \$500 award to high school senior

Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin has announced creation of an annual \$500 award for a graduating high school senior, in honor of Mary Louise Symon, Spring Green, who died in 2009. The award could be used to further the recipient's leadership experience by attending college, performing a public service internship involving civic or political action groups, participating in a leadership conference or similar activities.

Doug Huebner, Hollandale, chair of Grassroots Citizens, said the award is intended to advance an agenda of social change consistent with Ms. Symon's life-long vision. "She blazed a path for women in politics, including as the first woman chair of the Dane County Board. Throughout her life she remained deeply committed to progress on a broad social agenda, including protecting the environment, preserving farmland and rural regions, making courts more humane, ensuring fair housing and defending social services."

Ms. Symon was one of the founders of Grassroots Citizens, a group centered in Iowa County that fosters positive social change and dialogue through an active, involved and informed community network of citizens.

Applications for the award have been distributed to counselors at River Valley, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Highland, Iowa-Grant, Barneveld and Pecatonica High Schools. Application deadline is April 1.

Huebner said that one award will be made this year, but Grassroots Citizens hopes to be able to expand the program in succeeding years to more students in the region.

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