



# 2015 YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**Nominee: Nicole Chen**

**Nominator: Maureen Byrne**



*In the Nominator's words:*

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Nicole Chen for Dublin's Young Citizen of the Year. She is an amazing individual who has spent a lot of time in 2015 making our school community a welcoming and inviting place for our freshmen.

Nicole is part of the school-wide Freshman Mentor Program (FMP), of which I am the Administrator. Now in its second year, FMP is a program designed to acculturate our freshmen by putting them in advisories during the first 20 minutes of their lunch, Monday through -Thursday. Nicole volunteered as an FMP mentor all last school year (2014--2015) as well as this year (2015--2016), thus volunteering 54 hours during the calendar year of 2015. This includes the commitment of 20 minutes Monday through -Friday, hour-long monthly trainings, and

participation in community events. In addition, Nicole was one of seven students chosen last year, and this year comprising the student-led Executive Board for the Freshman Mentor Program, Nicole was the first asked to join.

On the FMP Executive Board, Nicole has been instrumental in developing team-building activities and trainings for the other 90 mentors. During 2015, she presented at staff meetings, community meetings and board meetings. She participated in the presentation for the Dublin Unified School Board to update it on the development and progress of our program. This presentation went so well that the Board agreed to support our program in the upcoming years. The School Board stated that it would like to see similar programs developed in the middle and elementary schools in our district.

Through FMP, Nicole has developed relationships with some of the most at-risk freshmen at Dublin High School. Some of the students that she has been working with are disengaged both academically and socially. She has tutored them and helped them join clubs and sports at DHS. She models responsible, respectful behavior. She has become a friend and coach to the students in FMP Advisory and they respect her. As a member of cross- country and track, she serves as a big sister to the new members and provides encouragement and support to everyone.

In addition to the aforementioned, this school year, Nicole volunteers an hour of her time every day after school to work on program improvement. She puts together presentations, creates schedules for speakers and organizes our freshman and mentor activities. Her input has been invaluable to the program. She is creative and thoughtful and has a strong work ethic. Her hard work has helped to strengthen the program, thus helping to make a positive freshman year for 680 Dublin students. Her work has also helped grow the mentors, another 90 students. To contribute to a program that directly has affected close to 800 individuals is remarkable. Even more, to consider the individual making the impact is a mere 18 years old.