



LAURA KAEPLER CROWNED MISS WISCONSIN 2011

Oshkosh, Wis., JUNE 19, 2011 — On Saturday, June 18, 2011, Laura Kaeppler was crowned Miss Wisconsin 2011 in Oshkosh. Kaeppler, 23, receives a \$10,000 cash scholarship along with other in-kind scholarships, gifts and awards, as well as the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss America 2012 at the national pageant to be televised on ABC in January 2012. Representing the Miss Southern Wisconsin local pageant, Kaeppler is a graduate of Carthage College with a B.A. degree in Music and Vocal Performance and plans to pursue a Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology. For her talent, Kaeppler performed an opera aria to "Il Bacio" and her platform is "Mentoring Teens of Incarcerated Parents."

In addition, Annie Jorgensen was crowned Miss Wisconsin's Outstanding Teen 2011 on Saturday. Jorgensen, from Milwaukee, represented the Miss Milwaukee's Outstanding Teen program and will compete at Miss America's Outstanding Teen pageant in Orlando this August. She succeeded Teaka Griesbach of Kaukauna.

"Miss Wisconsin embodies the qualities a role model for young women and girls should have. She's talented, ambitious and accomplished. We are excited about working with her this year," said Jeanne Schmal, executive director of the Miss Wisconsin Organization. "All 21 of our contestants are talented and intelligent young women who represented their communities very well. We are thrilled that this year through our scholarship program we offered nearly \$30,000 in cash scholarships and more than \$800,000 in in-kind scholarships."

Rounding out the court of honor included:

- 1st Runner up, Miss Seven Rivers – Raeanna Johnson
- 2nd Runner up, Miss Fox River Valley – Desiree Geffers
- 3rd Runner up, Miss Madison Capital City – Brittnay Wittnebel
- 4th Runner up, Miss La Crosse/Octoberfest – Elizabeth Kramer

Other Semi-finalists and award winners included:

- Top 11 – Miss Burlington Area Chocolatefest – Mary O'Connell
- Top 11 – Miss Kenosha – Ashley Dennis
- Top 11 – Miss Oshkosh – Veijzahn Knight
- Top 11 – Miss St. Francis – Tonya Popowski
- Top 11 – Miss Wisconsin Central – Katie Williams
- Top 11 People's Choice Internet Vote – Miss Milwaukee – Brittany Roskom
- Non-Finalist Interview award – Miss West Allis – Melissa Condon
- Non-Finalist Talent award – Miss Racine – Brittny Henderson

At the final night of competition, Kimberly Sawyer, Miss Wisconsin 2010 crowned her successor. Miss America 2010, Caressa Cameron, served as Mistress of Ceremonies, and the 2010 Miss America's Outstanding Teen and former Miss Wisconsin Outstanding Teen Jeanette Morelan performed along with Laura Voss, Miss Wisconsin 1994 and Chasity Hardman, Miss Georgia 2008.

About The Miss Wisconsin Pageant

Founded in 1936, the Miss Wisconsin Pageant program is a preliminary for The Miss America Organization, one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance. The Miss Wisconsin Organization offers more than \$1 million in cash and scholarship assistance. Almost all contestants have either received, or are in the process of earning either college or postgraduate degrees, and utilize Miss America scholarship grants to further their educations. Visit www.misswisconsin.com for more information.