

## Cody Koenigsfeld selected as OC-ADCAT April Student of the Month

By: Neal A. Johnson | Source: Unterrified Democrat

Fatima senior Cody Koenigsfeld was selected as the Osage County Anti-Drug Community Action Team (OC-ADCAT) Student of the Month for April, nominated by both science teacher Kurt Strope and agriculture teacher Alicia Corson-Peters.

Both Strope and Corson, as well as Principal Matt Verslues, commented on Koenigsfeld's willingness to help others in addition to striving to do his best.

"Cody makes a plan and strives to be successful, while making sure that his success does not push others down," said Corson-Peters. "His willing hand is always there to bring others with him."

"I nominated Cody because he is always doing the right thing in the classroom and outside the classroom to better himself and others in the field he loves," added Strope.

"I think it is hard to give up your days off to pursue your future sometimes. I think most would rather rest and take it easy. Not Cody," Strope continued. "On his days off, he is eager to get into the vet's office and put in his time helping animals and learning as much as he can to help him be a better vet in the future."

Koenigsfeld has a 4.0 grade point average and plans to attend Mizzou this fall and major in Animal Science, with a possible minor in Agribusiness, after which he hopes to be accepted to their College of Veterinary Medicine. After becoming a veterinarian, Koenigsfeld hopes to stay in central Missouri.

Koenigsfeld said this focus on achieving his dreams helps him avoid drugs and alcohol.

"It is important to live a drug and alcohol-free lifestyle because my future means too much to jeopardize," he said. "To me, my dreams of becoming a veterinarian are what I've strived for since the third grade, and to accomplish this dream I must stay focused on schooling, without distractions that could completely erase the dream of becoming a veterinarian at any moment."

He also attributes much of his success to his parents, Pete and Anne Koenigsfeld, who showed him from a young age not to use drugs, and to use alcohol responsibly.

"Cody works to stay positive on a regular basis with a smile on his face," said Principal Verslues. "While he is very involved and has a lot of responsibilities both inside and outside of school, he works to lead by example and has exceptional focus to excel in everything that he is involved in."

Koenigsfeld participates in soccer, archery, the A+ program, and Catholic Youth Organization, and is a member of the National Honor Society.

He is President of the Fatima FFA Chapter, where he participates in the Livestock Judging Team and Farm Management Team. He received his State FFA Degree in April, and also arranged extra study practices for himself and the rest of his Farm Management team.

OC-ADCAT Executive Director Lorie Winslow will present Koenigsfeld with a certificate, and he will be eligible to apply for the annual Student of the Month Scholarship.

"I am so excited to showcase our seniors who have chosen to live a drug- and alcohol-free life," said OC-ADCAT Education Committee Chairperson Charlotte Bellsmith. "I know this is not an easy thing to do. The pressure on our teens to drink while still underage is still pretty severe."

For more information about OC-ADCAT, visit <https://www.ocadcat.org>.