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Utah Air Guardsman's Daughter Receives ANG's "Youth of the Year" Award

Alyssa Brown of Magna, Utah receives national award for academics and community service

SALT LAKE CITY – Alyssa C. Brown, daughter of Master Sgt. Mike Brown, 109th Air Control Squadron, Utah Air National Guard, was presented the 2009 Air National Guard Youth of the Year Award in a small ceremony at the Air Guard base May 2.

The ANG Youth of the Year Award promotes leadership in youth and annually recognizes teen ANG family members who achieve high academic marks and make significant contributions to their communities.

"This is a great opportunity, and I'm so grateful for it," said Alyssa after being surprised with the announcement of her award.

As the nationwide finalist, Alyssa, a sophomore at the Academy of Math, Engineering and Science in Salt Lake City, Utah, has maintained a 4.0 grade point average, and has served leadership roles both at school and within her community through her involvement in student government work, as a class officer, in her church youth group and within the Girl Scouts of America.

Alyssa has a drive and a will to succeed higher than I've ever seen, said her father Mike Brown.

As part of the award Alyssa will receive The Shelton Challenge Scholarship, which is a six-day residential experience at North Carolina State University that involves students in leadership activities that expand on those skills.

Alyssa is scheduled to receive the official ANG Youth of the Year Award alongside the Air Force Youth of the Year Award winners in a Pentagon ceremony in June.

For more information on the Utah Air National Guard, visit www.151arw.af.mil.