



## Allyson Courtney Hart of Roanoke, Crowned Ms. Wheelchair VA 2017-2018



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**Fishersville, VA.** The Ms. Wheelchair VA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Allyson Courtney Hart of Salem is to be crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia. Lelia Dunning was originally crowned Ms. Wheelchair Virginia on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville, VA. However, due to scheduling conflicts, Lelia chose to pass the crown on to the first runner-up: Allyson Courtney Hart. Allyson will continue from this point on as Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2017-2018.

As the current reigning titleholder, Allyson qualifies for entry in Ms. Wheelchair America. Allyson will compete against over 30 contestants from across the country for the title of Ms. Wheelchair America 2018. The event will take place in Erie Pennsylvania, August 14<sup>th</sup> - August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017. During this week-long program, contestants will participate in a leadership institute, mentoring events, and multiple judging sessions.

Allyson Courtney Hart lives in Roanoke, Virginia and currently attends Virginia Western Community College. She is also a volunteer at Fellowship Community Church in the *Unlimited Potential in Christ Regardless of Ability* Program assisting kids with special needs. She has received a certificate in Business from Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. Allyson enjoys yoga, Zumba, arts and crafts, and writing. She uses a wheelchair due to neuromuscular disease of unknown origin. Allyson describes herself as strong, loving, caring, independent, and outgoing. Allyson's platform of advocacy is "Never stop going for the goal and don't be limited by what you can't do". Allyson's motto of inspiration is: "Independence Overcomes Disability".

Allyson did not hesitate to "roll forward" and take on the duties and responsibilities of Ms. Wheelchair Virginia 2017-2018. Although her time to prepare for the Ms. Wheelchair America Program is shorter than the typical titleholder, Allyson accepted this position with no reservations. Emily McGrail, State Coordinator for Ms. Wheelchair Virginia says, "There is no doubt that Allyson will be an awesome titleholder to represent our Commonwealth in the Nationals Program. She is a tenacious young lady and I know that Allyson will shine despite becoming the titleholder so close to Nationals."

In addition to Allyson, Jessica Wise was crowned Miss Teen MWVA Ambassador and Brianna Pena was crowned Little Miss MWVA Ambassador. Jessica and Brianna will carry out their year long reign as MWVA Regional Titleholders and will be ambassadors to their communities. They will help to promote our vision which is ***to inspire and motivate Virginians as role models of courage and hope.*** Together, all titleholders will educate and promote advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

Ms. Wheelchair Virginia, a 501(c)3, is one of the largest Ms. Wheelchair state programs in the country. Focusing on the accomplishments of Virginians with disabilities: the mission is to educate, advocate and raise awareness of the abilities and needs of the disability community; but more importantly, to inspire and motivate Virginians as role models of courage and hope.



For more information, contact:  
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