

Two lauded in gay rights

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Jason Noble

Two area activists were recognized at the **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's annual Creating Change Conference**, which ended Sunday in Kansas City.

Wick Thomas and Jovan Sage received Creating Change Awards.

Thomas, a University of Missouri-Kansas City student, was honored for establishing a Gay-Straight Alliance in 2004 while he was a student at Paola High School. He said the effort led to harassment and death threats.

"So much of the work we do is volunteer, so it's really nice to feel like it is being recognized," Thomas said.

Sage, a UMKC graduate student, won her award for leadership and participation with numerous groups.

The meeting drew more than 2,000 gay-rights activists from across the country. Topics included workplace equality, AIDS/HIV prevention, transgender rights and gay-inclusive churches.