

- Special to the Leader & Times

At the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City this past September 2013, the public selected Theresa Vail – Miss Kansas 2013 – as America's Choice, a first for the state and immediately casting national attention upon Kansas and the outstanding young women who are represented through the Miss Kansas Organization.



In response, the 2014 Miss Kansas Pageant will offer the public an opportunity to determine which state contestant automatically advances to the Miss Kansas 2014 finals, to be conducted on June 7 through online voting.

All contestant photos, names and titles will be posted on the Miss Kansas Organization website under the Kansas' Choice logo. Each vote is \$1 per vote, submitted electronically, with all proceeds benefitting the Miss Kansas Scholarship Organization making available more than \$50,000 in cash and in excess of \$3 million of in-kind scholarships.

Online voting will open at 12:01 a.m. CST Saturday and close at 11:59 p.m. CST on June 4 through the organization website: www.misskansas.org.

Kansas' Choice contestant will be announced prior to the announcement of the Top 10 at the beginning of final competition on Saturday, June 7, on the Pratt Community College campus in Pratt.

Competition shall then continue with 11 finalists vying for the title of Miss Kansas 2014 and the opportunity to represent Kansas in the Miss America Pageant next September.

Tickets to the event can be purchased on-line at www.misskansas.org.

Miss Kansas Pageant Inc. is the official state preliminary to the iconic Miss America Pageant. The Miss America Organization heads 53 state programs, including the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, as well as thousands of local pageants across America who combine to make available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance each year.