



DENISE MERRILL
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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For more information:
Av Harris: (860) 509-6255
Cell: (860) 463-5939

- PRESS RELEASE -

MERRILL: FIFTH GRADERS WRITE ESSAYS, PREPARE POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ABOUT HISTORICAL EVENTS AND INVENTIONS IN CONNECTICUT

SECRETARY OF THE STATE HONORS DOZENS OF STUDENTS FROM ACROSS
CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR WINNING ESSAYS AND PRESENTATIONS

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today announced the winners of her office's 18th Annual Essay Contest and for the first time added a new feature to the contest for PowerPoint presentations on the same topic as the essay. This year, students were asked to discuss an important event or invention from Connecticut that has significantly affected the history of our state. They were asked to answer the question "How is the impact of this event or invention still felt today?" The contest winners were honored at a ceremony in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol Friday May 17th. More than 400 fifth graders from 38 different schools across Connecticut submitted essays and PowerPoint presentations this year.

"Connecticut is a small state, yet we have had an extraordinary number of innovations in science and industry, not to mention the dozens of historically impactful events that have happened here," said Secretary Merrill, Connecticut's chief elections official. "I am very impressed with these students and the grasp they have on Connecticut's history. They also seem to understand that they too can one day play an important part in history, or create some fantastic invention that can save or improve lives all over the world. There is no telling what kind of inspiring ideas may flow from this writing exercise that may one day themselves make a huge difference in the lifetime of these young writers. We added the PowerPoint category this year because being able to communicate your ideas with writing and graphics is an increasingly important professional skill to possess."

A set of five winning essays and PowerPoint presentations was selected from each of Connecticut's five congressional districts. Each set consisted of a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

winner, along with two students who received honorable mention. Every student honored in the contest received a gift certificate from Barnes & Noble bookstore.



2013 Essay and PowerPoint Contest Winners

2013 Secretary of the State's Essay Contest winners:

Congressional District 1

1st Place, Fatima Rodriguez, Charter Oak International Academy, West Hartford
2nd Place, Zan Huang, Mary Louise Aiken Elementary School, West Hartford
3rd Place, Sara Wills, Philip R. Smith Elementary School, South Windsor
Honorable Mention, Katherine Miner, Highland Park School, Manchester
Honorable Mention, Jankris Bondoc, Charter Oak International Academy, West Hartford

Congressional District 2

1st Place, Jasmine Ziobron, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, East Haddam
2nd Place, Quentin Karam, North Stonington Elementary, North Stonington
3rd Place, Nate Hopkins, North Stonington Elementary, North Stonington
Honorable Mention, Scott Pion, North Stonington Elementary, North Stonington
Honorable Mention, Ian Spracklin, North Stonington Elementary, North Stonington

Congressional District 3

1st Place, Natalia Wyszkowski, Bradley School, Derby
2nd Place, Alexis Enjem, Bradley School, Derby
3rd Place, Kerry Turecek, Middlefield Memorial School, Middlefield
Honorable Mention, Alyssa Alfano, Helen Street School, Hamden
Honorable Mention, Cameron Nielsen, Memorial Middle School, Bristol

Congressional District 4

1st Place, Luka Diedrich-Gashi, Columbus Magnet School, Norwalk
2nd Place, Owen Kenny, Stratfield Elementary School, Fairfield
3rd Place, Emma Paul, Columbus Magnet School, Norwalk
Honorable Mention, Sarah Buttress, Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School, Bridgeport
Honorable Mention, Alan Tran, Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School, Bridgeport

Congressional District 5

1st Place, Morgan Sokol, Har-Bur Middle School, Burlington
2nd Place, David Chmielewski, Torrington TAG/East School, Torrington
3rd Place, Liam Dineen-Herzog, Stadley Rough Elementary School, Danbury
Honorable Mention, Lesly Ochoa, Morris Street School, Danbury
Honorable Mention, Gabby Christina, Gainfield Elementary School, Southbury

2013 Secretary of the State's PowerPoint Contest Winners:

Congressional District 1

1st Place, Neil Tamhankar, Highland Park School, Manchester
2nd Place, Marley Howard, Highland Park School, Manchester
3rd Place, Alan Cavagnaro, Philip R. Smith Elementary School, South Windsor
Honorable Mention, Bajram Gutic, Mrs. Ejzak Pearson School, Winsted
Honorable Mention, Brandon Stein, Mrs. Ejzak Pearson School, Winsted

Congressional District 2

1st Place, James Knowlton, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Killingworth
2nd Place, Jacqueline Lage, Hebron Elementary School, Hebron
3rd Place, Andrew Daly, Abraham Pierson School, Clinton
Honorable Mention, Teagan Chrzanowski, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Killingworth
Honorable Mention, Damaris Williams, Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, Killingworth

Congressional District 3

1st Place, Roma Ubaldi, Calf Pen Meadow School Middle School, Milford
2nd Place, James Rodrigues, Calf Pen Meadow School Middle School, Milford
3rd Place, Hannah Kupson, Calf Pen Meadow School Middle School, Milford
Honorable Mention, Maxine Lynch, Calf Pen Meadow School Middle School, Milford
Honorable Mention, Benjamin Grunow, Calf Pen Meadow School Middle School, Milford

Congressional District 4

1st Place, Avi Sardana, Columbus Magnet School, Norwalk
2nd Place, Anna Pasiakos, Columbus Magnet School, Norwalk
3rd Place, Brendan McMahon, Burr Elementary School, Fairfield
Honorable Mention, Syndee DiNatale, Discovery Magnet School, Bridgeport
Honorable Mention, Graham Murtha, Columbus Magnet School, Norwalk

Congressional District 5

1st Place, Arnav Singh, West Woods Upper Elementary School, Farmington
2nd Place, Sia Goel, West Woods Upper Elementary School, Farmington
3rd Place, Autumn Ciccarella, Gainfield Elementary School, Southbury
Honorable Mention, Mark Anderson, Gainfield Elementary School, Southbury
Honorable Mention, Isabella Abreu, West Woods Upper Elementary School, Farmington