



Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents



CAPSS & CAS Announce Winners in 'Student Voices' Video Contest

Cheshire and West Hartford, Conn. (June XX, 2013) – Back in February, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) and The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) challenged students in grades 6-12 to develop short videos highlighting their best ideas for improving education. The contest premise? Effectively transforming education in Connecticut requires 'student voices.' Four months later, the videos have been reviewed by a panel of educational and community leaders, the public has voted and the winners have been chosen.

"Every video we received was creative, engaging and revealed a passion for improving public education in Connecticut," Joseph J. Cirasuolo, Ed.D., Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, said. "We congratulate the winners on their achievements and commend all of the students for taking the time to develop such creative and engaging videos."

The winners in the Middle School Division are:

1st Place: Megan Greene (Bethel Middle School, Bethel)

2nd Place (tied): Colin Monahan (New Fairfield Middle School, New Fairfield)

2nd Place (tied): Kairav Maniar, Moran Middle School (Wallingford)

3rd Place: Zeel Patel and Madison Wilson, Washington Middle School (Meriden)

Honorable Mentions: Maddie Westcott, Moran Middle School (Wallingford) and Mitchell Hall, Moran Middle School (Wallingford)

The winners in the High School Division are:

1st Place: James Willis, Weston High School (Weston)

2nd Place (tied): Erik Milbauer, Greenwich High School (Riverside)

2nd Place (tied): Jonathan Denton, Daniel Hand High School (Madison)

3rd Place: Mia Grossman, Brookfield High School (Brookfield)

Honorable Mention: Mohammed Alam, Danbury High School (Danbury)

In the middle school division, the winners will receive \$800 (1st place), \$400 (2nd place) and \$200 (3rd place) scholarships. In the high school division, the winners will receive \$1500 (1st place), \$700 (2nd place) and \$350 (3rd place) scholarships. The honorable mentions in both divisions will receive \$100 gift cards.

Featured in the winning entries were ideas for integrating more technology into the learning process, recommendations for new classes, suggestions for more collaborative learning and strategies for restructuring the school day so students can learn more and better.

Karissa Niehoff, Ed. D. Executive Director, The Connecticut Association of Schools, said. "I am so pleased that all the student entries were creative, thoughtful, and provided great suggestions for how we can improve schools. It is important for us to listen to students, consider their ideas, and involve them as appropriate in the work of bettering our schools. After all, schools are for kids."

The 'Student Voices' video contest was inspired by the CT NextEd Report, which provides a robust set of practical recommendations for how to reimagine Connecticut's educational system.

About The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS):

The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), based in West Hartford, CT, has been the voice of superintendents of schools in Connecticut for 104 years. The mission of CAPSS is to lead the continuous improvement of public education for all students by advocating public policy for children and by developing and supporting executive school leaders. To learn more, visit www.capss.org.

About The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS):

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), located in Cheshire, CT, is an organization working to strengthen elementary and secondary education and athletics (CIAC) in Connecticut. Through leadership, administrative, and professional development services, CAS works to serve the collective interests and needs of Connecticut educators. CAS's mission is to provide exemplary programs and services that promote excellence in the education of all children. To learn more, visit www.casciac.org.