

PRESS RELEASE—May 9, 2024, at 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time

For more information contact:

Teri Ehresman, NFPW contest director, islandpark723@gmail.com

**Students win national recognition for communications work**

PURCELLVILLE, VA – Students from throughout the United States are being honored for their outstanding communications efforts.

Nearly 2,000 students participated in this year’s contest sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women Education Fund. Students first competed in a state-wide communication contest. First-place winners were selected to advance to the national round of competition. In states where a contest was not offered, NFPW hosted an at-large contest with the first-place winners also advancing to the national competition.

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The first-place winners in each of the 23 categories in the national contest will receive a $100 cash prize. The national winners, announced May 9 in a Zoom ceremony, are:

**2024 NFPW High School Contest winners**

**Editorial**

First place -- Fiona Jin, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Under the Varnish

Second place -- Jack Baker, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, A grave injustice; a step backward

Third place -- Molly Fitzgerald, Stamford High School, Stamford, Connecticut, Locking Bathrooms Isn’t Just Inconvenient—It’s Illegal. The Answer is More Security Guards

Honorable mention -- Emmalie Herd, Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, Nebraska, Women’s classic books should be taught in the classroom

**Opinion**

First place -- Fiona Jin and Ishanvi Chaudhary, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, More Than Barbie

Second place -- Joules Margot, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, The Search for the Holy Grain

Third place -- Julia Gray, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Student journalism is real journalism.

Honorable mention -- Andrew Liu, Bellaire High School, Bellaire, Texas, Rethinking affirmative action: an Asian student’s perspective; Lara Dumanli, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Good Luck; Jasmine Whitfield, Stamford High School, Stamford, Connecticut, How Long Will Female Wrestling Continue to be Overshadowed?

**News Story**

First place – Greyson Imm, Shawnee Mission East. Prairie Village, Kansas, Chasing Strength

Second place –Vee Lewis, Sparkman High School, Madison, Alabama, Getting Fiscal

Third place – Jack Baker, Sybil Curran and Josh McNeil, Little Rock Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, “Blindsided:” AP African American Studies Continues Despite Controversy.

Honorable mentions – Liliana Perez, Addison Ginther and Charlotte Miksha, Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Indiana; Teagan Lynch, Millard North High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Raising Rates: Increasing graduation rate, lowering levels of absenteeism; Campbell Treschuk, FLHS Prospect, Fairfield, Connecticut, Federal Court Sets the Stage for Decision on CIAC Transgender Sports Policy; and Brooke Hudacek and Zeke Morrison, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Artistic Intelligence.

**Feature Story**

First place –Aanya Bansal, Shawnee Mission East High School, Mission Hills, Kansas, Inspiring Strength

Second place – Claire Steinbrook, Southport High School, Indianapolis, Indiana, Legacy of love

Third place – Kristina Yosypiv, Stamford High School, Stamfold, Connecticut, Ukrainian refugees share their story after unwillingly leaving their home.

Honorable mentions – Molly Kitchens, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Feeding Students, Changing Lives; Zoe Rector, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, 22 years later; Lily Groover, Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, Pennsylvania, All They Want: The Struggle Being an LGBTQ Student at Northern Lehigh; Emerson Swift, Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley, California, Humans.

**Sports Story**

First place – Jason Deng, Bellaire High School, Bellaire, Texas, Swimmer creates multisports club after international win.

Second place – Brady McGuire, Shaler Area High School, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, A look at the unsung job of a basketball referee

Third place – Sriya Mamidanna, Sreeja Muthukannen, and Sona Surya, Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, An Hour of Need

Honorable mention – Alexander Bratton, Sparkman High School, Harvest, Alabama, Looking at the Heart of the Matter

**Columns or Blogs**

First place – Tanatswa Chivero, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, 'Difficult' Names Carry Value.

Second place – Vee Lewis, Sparkman High School, Madison, Alabama, Junior Reflects on Life Before Mother's Death

Third place – Greta Grist, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, Shawnee, Kansas, Too Much

Honorable mention – Lara Dumanli, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Terror on the Mind

**Review**

First place – Mary Jane Kushiner, Gretna High School, Gretna, Nebraska, Review: Give Yourself ‘Goosebumps’

Second place – Kevin Sigrist, Kaneland High School, Maple Park, Illinois, Andor: A Fresh Take on Star Wars

Third place – Khadija Khan, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri, Summer on the big screen

Honorable mention – Gabi Dawson, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, The Pumpkin Latte Chronicles; and Wyatt Harris, Sparkman High School, Toney, Alabama, AI in the News

**News or feature photo**

First place – Vivian Lin, Palo Alto High School, Menlo Park, California, Flying High

Second place – Madeline Petrick, Gretna East High School, Omaha, Nebraska, The Smell of Rebellion

Third place – Amber-Nichole Ledbetter, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, Arkansas, New Club Promotes Composting at Heritage

Honorable mention – Riley Scott, Shawnee Mission East, Overland Park, Kansas, Sink or Swim

**Sports photo**

First place – Caroline Martucci, Shawnee Mission East High School, Mission Hills, Kansas, Senior Night Goal

Second place – Jayla Jackson, Ben Davis High School, Indianapolis, Indiana, Two points

Third place – Francesca Antonecchia, Delaware Valley High School. Milford, Pennsylvania

**Cartooning**

First place – David Gaither, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri, It's always an issue with you

Second place –– Keona Dyer, Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, Pennsylvania, Thinking About College? Better Save (Just to Apply)

Third place – Taryn Rainey, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, A genocide is a genocide cartoon

Honorable mention –Onnika Moore, Gretna East High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Griffin Student Leaders, needs to be more inclusive; Eloise Ramon, Keira Lord and Lucia Ramon, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware, Ronny and Roy #2; and Ryan Shin, Sunny Hills High School, Fullerton, California, Random Event Generator.

**Graphics/Photo Illustration**

First place – Elizabeth Yuan. Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois, Plugged In

Second place – Iris Kim, Sunny Hills High School, La Mirada, California, Seasonal Greeting

Third place – Avery Snider, Sparkman High School, Huntsville, Alabama, Writer's Guild

Honorable mention – Leying Yang, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana, On Ice!

**Single page layout**

First place – Editorial Staff, Northern Lehigh High School, Slatington, Pennsylvania, Slate Front Page

Second place – Addie Moore, Shawnee Mission East, Prairie Village, Kansas, Playing at the Next Level

Third place – Matthew Beyer, Adams Central Jr/Sr High School, Hastings, Nebraska, Beating the Odds

Honorable mention -- Amber-Nichole Ledbetter, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, Arkansas, Dec 2023 News Layout

**Double-truck layout**

First place – Ansh Aggarwal, Jennifer Huang, and Veronica Jia, Stevenson High School, Linconshire, Illinois, Black Box

Second place – Lizzy Williams, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Mural with a mission: Social justice artwork honors delegate

Third place – Jessi Hahn, Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pennsylvania, ADHD Awareness: moving forward with ADHD

Honorable mention – Azalea Bennett-Orsini, Homestead High School, Fort Wayne, Indiana, The Most Meaningless Color?; and Alexa Leiting, Millard South High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Clothes and Codes.

**Environment**

First place – Travis McGinnis, Ayma Malik, Ethan Bull, Yaritzza Montenegro, Jianna Aganon, Kathryn Peterson and Kalista Palarca, Southwest Career and Technical Academy. Las Vegas, Nevada, Thirst for Urgency.

Second place – Avery Carlisle and Helena Wang, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana, While climate change awareness has risen, groups work to help find ways to take action

Third place – Jackson Sneeringer, Carlmont High School, San Carlos, California, Disaster in paradise: the Maui wildfires

Honorable mention – Zoe Rector, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Pollution in North Omaha illustrates environmental racism

**Radio or Podcast Prepared Report**

First place – Savannah Sorowice, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware, St Helena Carnival

Second place – Lydia Lawrence and Alexis Januk, The McHenry Messenger, McHenry, Illinois, A step further

Third place – Jaimie Chun, Sunny Hills High School, Fullerton, California, Queer Perspectives Part 2

Honorable mention – Lucas Pechacek, Bellevue West High School, Bellevue, Nebraska, Unpeeling History with Lucas Pechacek S2:E3: Welcome to the 19th Century; and Max Mesman, Taylor Gautney and Reese Kinder, Auburn High School, Auburn, Alabama, Play callers Episode 10 with Jason Halverson and the 2024 Auburn High Football Senior Class

**Radio/Television Interview or Talk Show**

First place – Elaine Jiang, Carlmont High School, Belmont, California, People, Politics, and Perspective Ep. 2: Asian Americans, admissions, and the affirmative action debate

Second place – Scarle Mejia, Stamford High School, Stamford, Connecticut, Black History Month Feature: An Emotional Interview with Superintendent Dr. Tamu Lucero

Third place – Jamie Ford, Mount Pleasant High School, Wilmington, Delaware, Anne Frank Play TCC

Honorable mention – Chelsea Jensen, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Interview with State Supreme Court Justice and Tim VanEtten, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Indiana, Redesigning Learning

**Best Newscast: Radio or Television**

First place – HSETV staff, Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Indiana, The Royal Rundown: November 9, 2023

Second place – Nevaeh Suit and Chelsea Jensen, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Hornet News Now Episode 4

Third place – Emily Jasa and Carson Kelley, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, November Broadcast

Honorable mention – Karson Hester, Lexi Gemperle, Stillman Brown, Mary Margaret Buck, Taylor Gautney and Katie Shockley, Auburn High School, Auburn, Alabama, Tiger TV, November.

**Video News Story**

First place – Aneesh Tiwari, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, UC Berkeley to Build $2 Billion Space Center at NASA Ames Research Park

Second place – Angela Zheng and Grace Vidlak, Millard North High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Destination Downtown

Third place – Nevaeh Suit, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Thea Foundation Scholarship

Honorable mention – Stillman Brown, Auburn High School, Auburn. Alabama, Tiger TV | Auburn High School Focuses on Suicide Awareness Month; Reilly Byron, McHenry Community High School, McHenry, Illinois, Key Club Hosts Annual Gift-Wrapping Event; Jacob Bailey, Caesar Rodney High School, Camden, Delaware, How a food worker's Puerto Rican culture inspires the menu at this high school cafeteria

**Video Feature Story**

First place – Taylor Dischinger, Bryant High School, Bryant, Arkansas, Flower Farm as a Second Business

Second place – Maximillian Allen, Aiden Jopp, Jaden Gladu, and Darius Jack, Caesar Rodney High School, Camden, Delaware, Love of Food, Italian culture, and family guides owners of pizza shop

Third place – Sylvan Prey-Harbaugh and Nate Anderson, Strath Haven High School. Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Silvertones spread love through song

Honorable mention – Travis McGinnis and Ellie Lakatos, Southwest Career and Technical Academy. Las Vegas, Nevada, ‘Battle Bots Destruct-A-Thon’ Inspires Young Engineers; Samantha Kendeigh and Elaina Kratky, Westside High School, Omaha, Nebraska, The player behind the play: the Caleb Benning feature; Charley Dieringer and Tristan Lewis, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, Bridging the work force skills gap; and Henry Leins, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, The Generative A.I. Revolution

**Video Sports Story**

First place – Vincent Wong and Henry Leins, Palo Alto High School, Palo Alto, California, Pickleball: Bringing Together People of All Ages

Second place – Max Arnold and Gabe Fryling, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, The Mystery Mascot

Third place – Dalton Heller. Millard South High School, Omaha, Nebraska, Pole Vaulters Reach New Heights

Honorable mention – Jasmen Walker, Homewood-Flossmoor High School, Flossmoor, Illinois, HF Field Hockey- Starting Success

**Yearbook Layout**

First place – Nikolette Murphy, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, They See Me Rollin'

Second place – Eloisa Valelo, Jacob Walczak, and Emily Jian, Southwest Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada, Getting this Started

Third place – Lauren Stallworth, Sparkman High School, Harvest, Alabama, A Life Full of Labs

Honorable mention – Jessie Varnell, Emma Cravey and Presli Sickels, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, Arkansas, Into the Spotlight; and Karleigh North, Gretna High School, Gretna, Nebraska, Student Section

**Yearbook Photo**

First place – Charlotte Horetsky, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania, Celebrating Culture

Second place – Emma Pearce, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana, All Thespian State

Third place – Isabel Salazar, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, Arkansas, Thursday Night Lights!

Honorable mention – Heather Curtiss, Midway High School, Waco. Texas, Powerlifting

**Yearbook Copywriting**

First place – Caroline Tallmadge, Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, Arkansas, Under Construction

Second place – Lexi Benson and Rebekah Evans, Hastings Senior High School, Hastings, Nebraska, Hastings High Opening Story

Third place tie – Camilla Simmons, Shawnee Mission East, Prairie Village, Kansas, Grace Sharkey; and Abigail Kepler, Hamilton Southeastern High School, Fishers, Indiana, Finding Meaning Behind Creation

Honorable mentions – Lane Watson, Fairhope High School, Fairhope, Alabama, What sets us apart brings us together; and Grace Skiba, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois, Red Raider Pride.