Students from North Yarmouth Academy, Lewiston, and Freeport High Schools Named “Governor’s Young Writers of the Year”

Students from Edgecomb, Freeport, Lewiston, Yarmouth, New Vineyard, Bath, Van Buren, and Waldoboro are finalists in statewide MCCS writing contest

AUGUSTA, Maine — Three high school juniors have been chosen as the winners of the Maine Community College System’s A Journey Into Writing contest and named 2015 Governor’s Young Writers of the Year. They are: Divine Selengbe of Lewiston High School; Addie Monahan-Morang of Freeport High School; and Morganne Elkins of Edgecomb, who attends North Yarmouth Academy.

The three students were each presented with an award and a $2,500 check by Governor Paul LePage in a ceremony at the Blaine House today. MCCS Interim President Derek Langhauser and Matt Kasper, director of sales for U.S. Cellular in New England, joined the Governor in presenting the awards.

"U.S. Cellular is pleased once again to support the Maine Community College System’s Journey Into Writing contest," said Kasper. "This is our eleventh year as a sponsor of this program and it is reflective of our support of education and youth throughout Maine. We want to congratulate Divine, Addie, and Morganne and wish them a bright future."

Selengbe won for her essay That’s Just Who I Am, Monahan-Morang won for her short story Mama, and Elkins won for her short story Cold House. The judges for the 11th annual contest were noted Maine authors Susan Kenney, Lewis Robinson, and Bill Roorbach. The contest, which is open to high school juniors across the state, is generously supported by U.S. Cellular. The company has provided $100,000 in prize money to contest finalists since the program was established in 2005.

In all, nine finalists were chosen from 177 entries in this year’s contest, representing over 60 Maine high schools. The six other finalists included Chandler Clothier of Lewiston High School; Sarah Cooper of Bath, who attends North Yarmouth Academy; Jesse Dunn of Waldoboro and the Watershed School; Park Laflin of New Vineyard, a junior at Mt. Blue High School; Thomas LaJoie of the Van Buren District Secondary School; and Colin Prato of Yarmouth High School. These six students will each receive a plaque and a check for $500.

Over the past 11 years, more than 2,400 Maine students have submitted entries for the writing contest. To enter, students submit a short story, essay, or poem of up to 1,500 words. More information about the contest is available at mccs.me.edu.

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