

C-SPAN ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2016 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Students create documentaries to address issues in the 2016 Presidential Race



Olivia Hurd will receive \$5,000 from C-SPAN for her Grand Prize documentary, "Up to Our Necks."

WASHINGTON (March 9, 2016) – C-SPAN today announced the winners of the national 2016 StudentCam documentary competition. One hundred fifty student and 53 teacher prizes, totaling \$100,000 in cash prizes, will be awarded for winning documentaries.

Each year since 2006, C-SPAN has invited middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce short documentaries on an issue of national importance. This year, students used video cameras to address the theme, "Road to the White House: what's the issue YOU most want candidates to discuss during the 2016 presidential campaign?"

In response, C-SPAN received a record 2,887 video submissions from almost 6,000 students in 45 states and Washington, DC. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues from the economy and equality, to education and immigration.

"With the presidential campaign in the forefront of people's minds, we wanted to hear from students across the country about the issues that matter to them," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN's Manager of Education Relations. "StudentCam provides these young people, many of whom are too young to vote, with a platform to express their opinions and have their voices heard."



The most popular topic chosen by students was the economy. Nineteen percent of entries were about issues affecting the economy such as poverty, homelessness, and minimum wage, followed by equality (13 percent), and education (12 percent).

High school students competed on a regional level with the United States being divided into three regions: West, Central, and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The Grand Prize winner was selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

Olivia Hurd, a sophomore at Jenks High School in Jenks, Okla., will receive \$5,000 as Grand Prize winner in C-SPAN's national 2016 StudentCam competition for her video entitled, "[Up to Our Necks](#)," about the federal debt. This video will air at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 29, 2016.

Ben Miller, William Ederer, and Charles Gryder, sophomores at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Md., will share \$3,000 as First Prize winners in the East region for their documentary, "[Driving Forward](#)," about highway and bridge funding. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 28, 2016.

Griffin Olis, Michael Frazier, and Zehn Wani, seniors at Athens High School in Troy, Mich., will share \$3,000 as First Prize winners in the West region for their documentary, "[The 1%](#)," about the scarcity of fresh water. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 27, 2016.

Daniela Mock-Zubia and Sofia Taglienti, a senior and sophomore, at the Metropolitan Arts Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., will share \$3,000 as First Prize winners in the Central region for their documentary, "[Rethinking Reform - Prisons in America](#)." This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 26, 2016.

Mia Lazar and Ava Lazar, middle school students at Blacksburg New School in Blacksburg, Va., are national First Prize winners in the Middle School division. Mia and Ava will share \$3,000 for their First Prize documentary "[What Should be Done about Money in Politics?](#)" This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day on April 25, 2016.

In addition to the Grand Prize and four First Prize winners, C-SPAN is awarding 16 Second Prize winners, 32 Third Prize winners and 97 Honorable Mentions. These winning videos will receive cash prizes of \$1,500, \$750 and \$250 respectively.

C-SPAN also awarded a secondary prize of \$500 for the entry that was deemed the "Fan Favorite." For five days, the public was presented with the opportunity to cast votes for their favorite documentary among the top five winners. Ben Miller, William Ederer, and Charles Gryder's video, "[Driving Forward](#)," received 3,253 votes, and so has been named C-SPAN's 2016 StudentCam Fan Favorite.

Each winning video is available at <http://www.studentcam.org/winners16.htm> and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN. To schedule an interview with one or more winning students or with C-SPAN education staff, please contact Robin Newton, Media Relations Specialist, at 202.626.8910 or Pam McGorry, Education Programs Specialist, at 202.626.4861.



The annual competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

About C-SPAN Classroom:

C-SPAN Classroom is a free membership service dedicated to supporting educators' use of C-SPAN programming and websites in their classes or for research. Members of C-SPAN Classroom may access free Timely Teachable Videos and video clips for use in the classroom, as well as lesson plans, handouts and ways to connect with other C-SPAN Classroom members. C-SPAN Classroom has reached more than one million students since its inception in 1987. For more information on C-SPAN Classroom visit the website: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/> or follow on twitter: @CSPAN_Classroom.

About C-SPAN:

Created by the cable TV industry and now in 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington DC and nationwide via XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org> for coverage and schedules; like us on [Facebook/cspan](https://www.facebook.com/cspan) and follow [@cspan](https://twitter.com/cspan) on Twitter.

CONTACTS:

Pam McGorry – 202.626.4861, pmcgorry@c-span.org

Robin Newton – 202.626.8910, rnewton@c-span.org