

Contact: John Cardarelli
202-626-8797
jcardarelli@c-span.org

Meredith Rapp
202-626-4861
mrapp@c-span.org

C-SPAN ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR 2010 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Student Documentary themes to focus on one of the country's greatest strengths, OR a challenge the country is facing

A Total of \$50,000 Awarded in Prizes

WASHINGTON, DC -- (September 10, 2009) – C-SPAN wants to know what national issues are on the minds of students, and announced today its call for entries in the **2010 StudentCam video documentary competition**. ([An downloadable video announcement has been made available here for posting on your website.](#))

The national competition, sponsored by America's cable television industry through C-SPAN and now in its sixth year, invites all middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce a five to eight minute video documentary using C-SPAN programming.

Students for this year's competition will have the opportunity to produce a documentary on either of the following topics:

A) One of the country's greatest strengths;

-OR-

B) A challenge the country is facing.

A total of **\$50,000** will be awarded in cash prizes, which includes 75 student awards and 11 teacher awards. The Grand Prize winner with the best overall entry will be awarded \$5,000, with multiple cash prize awards of \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1,500, and \$3,000 to students in both middle and high school categories.

“Last year’s competition produced a record number of entries, with students eager to express their views, through video, to the new president,” said Joanne Wheeler, C-SPAN vice president of education relations. “Every year, we’re impressed with the sophistication and visual expression students display to convey their opinions on major issues facing their communities and the nation.

“StudentCam would not be possible without the funding we receive from the cable industry,” Wheeler continued. “It is their support of C-SPAN and StudentCam, and their commitment to C-SPAN as an educational resource that allows students the opportunities to grow and learn both in and out of the classroom.”

Last year, **Sawyer Bowman**, a 10th grade student at Woodlawn School in **Davidson, NC**, won **Grand Prize** in C-SPAN’s 2009 “StudentCam” competition, and received a personal [message of congratulations from President Barack Obama](#).

Competition Guidelines

Entries must represent varying points of view, and include C-SPAN video that supports the documentary’s topic. Students, working alone or in groups up to three, can upload their entry form and videos directly online at www.studentcam.org. Documentaries must be the original work of students; however teachers may provide guidance and critiques.

The documentaries will be judged by a panel of C-SPAN representatives and educators, and evaluated on a number of criteria, including the thoughtful examination of the competition’s theme, quality of expression, adherence to the time limit, inclusion of varying points of view, and use of C-SPAN programming.

The deadline for entries is 5:00 pm (ET), Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Winners will be announced in March 2010, with winning videos to air on C-SPAN beginning in April of that year. Complete competition details and the entry form are available at the competition’s website, www.studentcam.org.

StudentCam is sponsored by C-SPAN Classroom, www.c-spanclassroom.org, a free membership service dedicated to support educators’ use of C-SPAN programming in their classes or for research.

About C-SPAN

C-SPAN was created by America's cable companies in 1979 as a public service and programs three public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio, a Washington, D.C. radio station distributed by XM Satellite Radio; and a video-rich website. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/>.