

C-SPAN ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2014 STUDENTCAM DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Students use video cameras to advocate for issues Congress should address



Michaela Capps, Sarah Highducheck and Emma Larson will receive \$5,000 from C-SPAN for their Grand Prize documentary, "Earth First, Fracking Second."

WASHINGTON (March 5, 2014) – C-SPAN today announced the winners of the national 2014 StudentCam documentary competition. 150 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 answer the question, "What's the most important issue the U.S. Congress should consider in 2014?"

In response, more than 4,800 students in 46 states and Washington, DC sent a total of 2,355 entries to C-SPAN this year— nearly 25 percent more than the number of entries received in 2013. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues, from immigration to gun legislation to the environment.

“StudentCam serves as a yearly reminder that young people are not only passionate about issues of national significance, but their ideas and opinions are also worthy of our consideration,” says Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN Manager of Education Relations.

“The level of critical thought, effort, and initiative that students have demonstrated in creating their documentaries is inspiring, and we are thrilled to share this year’s winning videos with both Congress and the public.”

The most popular topic in 2014 was the economy. Sixteen percent of entries were about economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, and the national debt, followed by gun legislation (14 percent) and education (13 percent).

This year C-SPAN doubled the number of student prizes and total prize money awarded. High school students competed on a regional level with the U.S. being divided into three regions, West, Central, and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The Grand Prize winners were selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

Emma Larson, Michaela Capps, and Sarah Highducheck, freshmen at Long Beach Polytechnic High School in Long Beach, Calif., will share \$5,000 as Grand Prize winners in C-SPAN’s national 2014 StudentCam competition for their video entitled, "[Earth First, Fracking Second.](#)" This video will air at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on April 29, 2014.

Shelly Ortiz, Nina Nandin and Hannah Hood, seniors at the Metropolitan Arts Institute in Phoenix, Ariz., will share \$3,000 as First Prize winners in the West region for their documentary, "[Diagnosing the Problem,](#)" about the state of mental health in America. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on April 28, 2014.

Andrew Demeter, a sophomore at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin in Chardon, OH, will received \$3,000 as First Prize winner in the Central region for his documentary, "[We The People, Genetically Modified,](#)" about genetically modified organisms. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on April 25, 2014.

Donald De Alwis, Gabriel Cote and Ajay Kharkar, 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, "[A Murky Future,](#)" about water pollution and combine sewer overflows in U.S. waterways. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on April 24, 2014.

Peter Jasperse, Antonia Torfs-Leibman and Madeleine Hutchins, eighth graders at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring, Md., are national First Prize winners in the Middle School division. Peter, Antonia and Madeleine will share \$3,000 for their First Prize documentary, "[The NSA: The Lengths of America's Security,](#)" about NSA surveillance. This video will air on C-SPAN at 6:50 a.m. E.T. and throughout the day on April 23, 2014.

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.

Each winning video is available at <http://www.studentcam.org> 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 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.

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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/>.