

DeaFestival Art Competition winners announced

Frankfort, Ky. (May 11, 2012) — Six students from around Kentucky have been selected as winners of the “Communication: Every Word Matters” art contest presented by the Kentucky Center on Deafness and the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The contest was open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade from public, private and homeschool environments.

The winners’ art will be featured on a fiberglass horse that will be on display at DeaFestival-Kentucky 2012, July 7 in Louisville at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

Winners were selected from three categories: elementary, middle and high school. They are:

- Elementary school – Jimmy Yeley Jr., Brooks Elementary School, Mt. Washington; and Kerwyn Haake, home school, Nicholasville.
- Middle school – Hannah Dowd, Anderson County Middle School, Lawrenceburg; and Jessica Lopez, Paducah Middle School, Paducah.
- High school – Nicole Agro, Greenwood High School, Bowling Green; and Lindsay Culp, Dixie Heights High School, Crescent Springs

Work was judged by Melody Bock-Freeman, Central Kentucky artist Jack Cochran and Lexington Art League Program and Volunteer Manager Julia Curiel.

“The arts open the mind’s imagination where sound is not a barrier,” said Virginia Moore, Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Winners also will have an opportunity to work one-on-one with Kentucky artist Melody T. Bock-Freeman during the National Association of the Deaf biennial conference July 3-5 in Louisville. Bock-Freeman, who is hard of hearing, is a certified art teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing. Additionally, she teaches undergraduate art education at Eastern Kentucky University, is on the VSA Arts of Kentucky artist roster and a member of the Lexington Art League. She said she is looking forward to mentoring the young artists.

“Children are like an empty canvas and I’m looking forward to helping these kiddos discover who they are and what they can accomplish,” Bock-Freeman said. “I am hoping to help these students unleash the artist within them and to discover that no disability has to keep you from expressing yourself.

After DeaFestival, the fiberglass horse will go on tour, spending time on exhibit at each winner’s school. It’s permanent home has not yet been decided.

For more information on this program, contact the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at (502) 573-2604 or email Tom Musgrave at tom.musgrave@ky.gov.