

May 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Foundation Essay Winners

Three middle school students representing Yorba Linda, California, Laconia, New Hampshire, and Richmond, Virginia have received awards for their winning submissions in the 2015-2016 Dr. Barbara Seniors Harkins Foundation Essay Contest.

The 2016 essay theme asked students to, "Imagine that you could give advice to someone—it could be someone you know personally, a historical figure, or a famous person living today."

The contest received close to 80 entries from students who competed (grades 6 - 8). The awards included: 1st place - Nextbook 7" Tablet, 2nd place - \$50.00 Gift Certificate for Barnes and Noble, and 3rd place - \$25.00 for Barnes and Noble.

The panel of more than three judges - comprised of Foundation Board Members as well as volunteers - was astounded and humbled by the variety of people chosen in the essays written by middle students from across the country.

"It was a blessing to have had a chance to read some of the entries," said Foundation Board Member, Alex Tengco, who helped judge the contest. "They inspired and filled me with hope for our future generation."

All winning essays will be posted on the Foundation's website in the very near future.

The 2016 Student Essay Contest Awards will be presented to:

1st Place: Ms. Aaliyah Mayer, Orange County School of the Arts, Yorba Linda, California

2nd Place: Ms. Victoria Taylor, Laconia Middle School, Laconia, New Hampshire

3rd Place: Mr. Jaelin Pettiford, Martin Luther King Junior High School, Richmond, Virginia

About Dr. Barbara Seniors Harkins:

Dr. Harkins was a life-long educator of the Dade County Public Schools who believed in the power of teaching all children. At the start of her career, Dr. Harkins felt that there wasn't enough caring and concern for the students in the schools. This predicament moved her to instigate change. By becoming a teacher, a coordinator,

and an administrator, Dr. Harkins strived for not only the betterment of the conditions in schools, but for the betterment of the students as well.

About The Foundation:

The Dr. Barbara Seniors Harkins Foundation is a non-profit organization established to strengthen the minds of youths to a new dimension through education. Dr. Harkins felt that there wasn't enough caring and concern in schools, and she wanted to change that. Through the foundation, Dr. Harkins' legacy of compassion will live on.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DR. HARKINS AND THE FOUNDATION
CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BARBARASENIORSHARKINSFOUNDATION.ORG**