

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #128 (2004-2005)

December 13, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PROJECT CITIZEN AWARD RECIPIENTS

PERTINENT FACTS:

We the People: Project Citizen is a standards-based, hands-on program for middle school students, grades 5-8, that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps young people learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.

Classes of students work cooperatively to identify a public policy problem in their community. They then research the problem, evaluate alternative solutions, develop their own solution in the form of a public policy, and create a political action plan to enlist local or state authorities to adopt their proposed policy. Participants develop a portfolio of their work and present their project in a simulated legislative hearing before a panel of prominent civic-minded community members.

Pam Collins', 4th period social studies students from Goldenview Middle School, with the help of the team's English teacher, Diana Daniels, researched an issue they entitled, "*Choose the Choice: Alzheimer's Home and Community Based Care*". Their project deals with the needs of Alzheimer patients and promotes a change in the current policy issue dealing with home-based care funding.

The students' portfolio and documentation binder were sent to the National Showcase, held in conjunction with the National Conference of State Legislators' annual convention, where they were evaluated and ranked into four categories (superior, exceptional, outstanding or honorable mention). This project received a superior rating. The eight students, who won the oral presentation at the state

competition in Anchorage, where 16 teams from Romig, Gruening, and Tanana Middle School from Fairbanks competed, received an all-expense paid trip to meet with legislators and answer questions about their project. Over 4,000 legislators attended the conference at the exhibit hall where projects from all 50 states were displayed and evaluated.

The students will be presenting their project to the Alaska Senate Health, Education and Human Services Committee at the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage this month, seeking sponsors for their proposed legislation during the next session. Alaska is one of only two states (Alabama, being the other) that does not have this legislation in place.

The following students put forth a lot of time, effort and dedication in their award-winning project:

Rori Ann Redick
Katelyn Duncan
Shannon Bradley
Spencer Augustin
River Ramuglia
Megan Frazer
Mike Benesch
Brenna Egeland
Roselyn Lloyd
Samantha Novak
Rianne Campbell, and
Nash Cotton

It is requested that the School Board recognize these students for their hard work, drive and enthusiasm, and for their commitment to their school, the community and the nation.

CC/ME/LN

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