

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Washington Apple Education Foundation

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Washington Apple Education Foundation Awards \$4750 in Savings Bonds to Young Artists

Wenatchee, WA... Kelsey Kane, age 15, from Poulsbo, Washington is the Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF) Grand Prize winner in the 14th Annual Year of the Apple Art Contest presented by Dow AgroSciences. The announcement was made at Ms. Kane's high school, North Kitsap High School, on September 15th. Ms. Kane received a \$1000 grand prize savings bond check for her artwork titled "Apple".

In addition to the \$1000 grand prize savings bond, Ms. Kane's artwork will be published on the 2010 Dow AgroSciences wall calendar. "Apple", a pastel, showcases a Golden Delicious apple surrounded by shades of purple, green and gold. Ms. Kane is currently a sophomore in high school and completed the drawing during her freshman year.

In total, fifteen Washington state students received a share of the \$4750 in prize money recognizing their artistic talents. The winning students' schools were also acknowledged for their support of the arts and the Year of the Apple art contest. \$100 checks were sent to each of the fifteen schools attended by winning artists for their purchase of classroom art supplies.

The Year of the Apple selection committee chose the gifted winners amongst approximately 600 entries, the largest number in the contests 14-year history. Artists competed in three grade divisions: K-4th grade, 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade. Artwork was accepted in four contest categories: Year of the Apple Poster Calendar, Holiday Card, Best Pear and Best Soft Fruit. The Year of the Apple art contest is open to all Washington state students, grades K-12.

Year of the Apple Poster Contest Honorable Mention savings bonds in the amount of \$250 each were presented to Amanda Hodge, age 10, from Ridgefield and David Kislenko, age 10, from Vancouver in Division One; Division Two winners were Paola Merrill, age 12, from Bremerton and Eunjoo Lee, age 13, from Vancouver; and Division Three winners were Byori Yu, age 17, from Bellevue and Tara Bellusa, age 16, from Anacortes.

In the Holiday Card contest, \$250 savings bonds recipients were Reilly Schoening, age 9, from Cashmere in Division One; Mercylyn Monghit, age 13, from Tacoma in Division Two; and Philip Vukelich, age 16, from Richland in Division Three.

The winners of the Best Pear contest and recipients of \$250 savings bonds from the Pear Bureau Northwest were Michael Otto, age 9, of Cle Elum in Division One; Jordan Sterk, age 13, of Lynden in Division Two; and Philip Vukelich, age 16, of Richland in Division Three.

Best Soft Fruit category winners of \$250 savings bond from the Washington State Fruit Commission were Thomas DeBartolo, age 9, of Battle Ground in Division One; Bethany Smyth, age 12, of Pasco in Division Two; and Samuel Strain, age 16, of Chelan in Division Three.

Scans of all winning entries can be found at www.waef.org after September 30, 2009. Promotion for the 2010 Year of the Apple art contest begins in October. The deadline for students to submit entries is August 1, 2010. Entry forms can be obtained at www.waef.org after October 1st.

2010 Year of the Apple poster calendars will be available December 7-9th, 2009 at the Dow AgroSciences booth at the Washington State Horticultural Association Annual Meeting in Wenatchee. To receive a copy via the mail, please contact the WAEF office at (509) 663-7713.

In addition to publishing artwork on the 2010 calendar poster, WAEF utilizes the students' creations on holiday cards and note cards. To receive a copy of the holiday card order form, please contact WAEF at (509) 663-7713. On-line holiday card order forms will be available at www.waef.org after October 1st. Proceeds from the sale of holiday and note cards support WAEF's scholarship and education programs.

The Washington Apple Education Foundation fosters educational opportunities, encourages academic excellence and promotes awareness of the values of the Washington's tree fruit industry. WAEF is a charitable non-profit organization created in 1994 by the growers of Washington state tree fruit and is funded through voluntary donations.

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