

Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano

Report on Youth and Education in the 38th District

Fall 2005

38th District Art Winners Shine in Pomona

Three high school students from Pomona and Montebello schools took home top honors at the Annual Congressional High School Art Competition at the School of Arts & Enterprise in Pomona on May 21.

"The talent of these three students and all of the other participants is truly remarkable," Congresswoman Napolitano said. "Far too often, on TV and in newspapers, we only see the negative things our youngsters are doing. We must recognize and highlight the many talents and great skills of our youth."

More than 150 art

pieces were created by students from 11 high schools in the 38th Congressional district.

Stephanie Ignacio of Diamond Ranch High



Congresswoman Napolitano honors Stephanie Ignacio, winner of the 2005 Congressional Art Contest, and her family at a May ceremony.

School in Pomona won the \$100 first prize for her computer graphics work entitled "Reflections", which is currently on display in the U.S. Capitol Tunnel Hallway.

Anthony Azour of

Montebello High School captured the \$75 second prize for his charcoal work, "In The Moment", on display in the Congresswoman's Washington, D.C., office. And, Ruben Delgado of Pomona High School received a \$50 third place prize for his pen and ink work, "Shadow Car", now displayed in the Congresswoman's Santa Fe Springs office.

Judges were Carmela Garcia, Centre for the Arts in Pico Rivera; Felicia Minardi, Hacienda-La Puente USD Board Member; and Christina Ochoa, Gallery Director of Self-Help Graphics, East Los Angeles.

Military Academy Appointment Opportunities for Students

Through a very competitive process, Congresswoman Napolitano nominates deserving and qualified students each year for appointments to U. S. Military Academies. To Apply:

Requirements: A completed Academy Nomination Application Form, one or two letters of recommendation, a letter explaining why you should be considered, high school and/or college transcripts and a copy of your SAT test score.

Duties: Acceptance at the Air Force Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, Military Academy at West Point, Naval Academy and Coast Guard Academy involves at least a nine-year obligation - four years at the Academy and five years with the Service.

Who: Students age 17 to 22 years old

How: The Congresswoman nominates candidates for four academies. The fifth, the Coast Guard Academy, offers appointments on the basis of an annual nationwide competition.

When: Interested students should attend a Military Day to ask questions and contact the District Office during their freshman year, but no later than the second semester of their junior year to request an Academy Nomination Application Form. Forms should be returned to the Washington, D.C., office no later than Dec. 6.

School Mental Health Services

Four schools in the 38th district have provided mental health services to students for several years— Los Alisos Middle School (Norwalk), North Park Middle School (Pico Rivera), Lake Center Middle School (Santa Fe Springs), and Bassett High School (La Puente).

Federal funds totaling \$2.1 million with an additional \$300,000 in local funds have allowed the program to offer much-needed services to almost 200 teens. Trained professionals on site provide counseling to teens dealing with depression, low self esteem, anorexia, substance abuse and other related conditions. Although the program was originally set up through an appropriations

request by the Congresswoman to help Latina adolescents deal with suicide and other problems, the program provides counseling services to any child who requests them. Administrators, teachers and parents say the program had helped students by enhancing relationships, improving academic performance and providing necessary tools to make positive choices.

The Congresswoman has submitted a request this year for an additional \$496,000 to augment the program and serve more youth. For more information, contact Gerri Guzman at 562-801-2134.

Higher Education Honor

California State Polytechnic University (Cal Poly) at Pomona was recognized by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security as one of 67 schools nationwide for its training and education on internet security systems. The honor qualifies the university for federal grants and scholarships for 2005 through 2008.

"This is an enormous achievement for Cal

Poly Pomona, once again highlighting their consistent and truly innovative work," Napolitano said.

Cal Poly also recently received two grants totaling \$620,000 from the Department of Education for its TRIO Student Support Services Program, aimed at assisting low-income and first generation college students. Grants will also be used to improve services for disabled students.

How to Apply for Internships

Congresswoman Napolitano encourages high school and college students to apply for unpaid internships in her District and D.C. offices.

District Office:

Who: High school or college students
How: Contact Perla Hernandez at Perla.Hernandez@mail.house.gov or Jesse Saucedo at Jesse.Saucedo@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Office

Who: College students
How: Send a resume, cover letter, and a one-page writing sample to Christine Cortez via e-mail: christine.cortez@mail.house.gov or fax to 202-225-0027.

Students and Teachers: Learn About Space Exploration, the Stars and More

Ever wondered what it is like to be an astronaut for the US Space Program (NASA)? Want to know more about astronomy? Do you know where science, math and technology can take you? To learn more, go to:

<http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/>
<http://erc.msfc.nasa.gov/al.html>



Students Quiz Congresswoman on Local Water Safety

Debbie Nodelman's fourth-grade letterwriting project on water safety resulted in a visit from Congresswoman Napolitano to their class at John Dollard Elementary to explain what the neighboring Norwalk Tank Farm is and its impact on the safety of their own drinking water.



Dollard students ask Congresswoman Napolitano questions about water safety

The tank farm next door is an Air Force fueling station, partly leased to Kinder Morgan. Fuel has leaked into the ground several times in the last 30 years, posing a potential health and environmental hazard. After a decade of meetings with Kinder

Morgan, the Norwalk Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), city and federal officials,

The Congresswoman has requested a Community Town Hall meeting with the school participating to further discuss the tank farm and water safety as well as a class presentation on the topic.

The fourth-graders impressed the Congresswoman with their smart questions and their curiosity about their own environment and its safety. When asked who was going to attend college, 100 percent of the students raised their hands. The Congresswoman was also in awe of the future plans of students to become astronauts, doctors and even President.

the Congresswoman continues to work to ensure protection for residents with cleanup and eventual development of the site.

Education Legislation

H.R. 3334 - Teach for America bill. Provides for recruiting, selecting, training, and supporting a national teacher corps of outstanding new teachers to work in underserved communities.

H.R. 3203 - Hispanic Serving Institutions Improvement Act. Amends the Higher Education Act to expand and extend the eligibility of Hispanic-serving institutions for assistance

H.R. 1029 - Student Loan Fairness Act. Amends the Act so that borrowers may find the best consolidation and refinancing rates for their school loans.

H.R. 547 - Graduation For All Act. Creates a new \$1 billion grant program to improve adolescent literacy in middle and high schools.

For more information on the bills, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov>

Peace Corps Volunteers Honored

Congresswoman Napolitano lauds the six volunteers in her district for their public service in the Peace Corps. Others are asked to consider this opportunity to help improve lives and promote a better understanding between America and the rest of the world.

Peace Corps volunteers from the 38th District are Kurt Briesemeister, Jessica Chang, Antonio Flores, Stephanie Lau, Jessica Samples and Mark Samples.

Applicants must be older than 18 and commit to spending

27 months, both training and serving overseas. The application process may take one year. A college degree and knowledge of a foreign language are not required, although helpful. Volunteers receive a living allowance, medical and dental benefits, along with transportation to and from their country of service. Upon completion of the program, they will receive a \$6,000 stipend.

To get more information on the Peace Corps, visit www.peacecorps.gov or call 800-424-8580.

Talking to Children about Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Parents struggling to find ways to talk to their young children about the loss and devastation caused by recent hurricanes will find useful information at these web sites.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF MENTAL HEALTH has information about coping with Hurricane Katrina, which includes basic points on how to deal with national tragedy. Go to: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) has extensive information on youth and adolescent mental health issues. Call 1-800-273-8255 or visit <http://www.samhsa.gov/>

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