

Press Release

BRIDGEPORT STUDENTS TAKE A “PEACE” OF THE PRIZE IN FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY’S “POETRY FOR PEACE” CONTEST

Bridgeport, CT – January 12, 2010 – Five Bridgeport Public School students have won top prizes in Fairfield University’s “Poetry for Peace” Contest. The University received over 700 poems from students in grades K-8 in Bridgeport and Fairfield. Out of the 700 poems, 64 will be published. Those students will be invited to read their poems on **Thursday, January 28th, from 6pm – 8pm at the Kelley Center at the Fairfield University Campus**. Free copies of the book of poems will be distributed that night.

The scholars from Bridgeport Public Schools who won top prizes are:

Grades K-2 Poetry Tier

1st Place:

Antonio McPhail

2nd Grade - Jettie S. Tisdale School

2nd Place:

Luis Campos

2nd Grade - Black Rock School

3rd Place and Top Kindergarten Poem:

Brianna Walker & Carlos Rodriguez

Grade K - Jettie S. Tisdale School

Top 1st Grade Poem:

Tambria Fleming

Grade K – Classical Studies Academy

Grades 3-5 Poetry Tier

1st Place and Top 5th Grade Poem:

Lilet Bowtun

5th Grade - Columbus School

2nd Place and Top 4th Grade Poem:

Kassandra Martinez
4th Grade - Columbus School

Top 3rd Grade Poem:
Joelys Lopez
3rd Grade – Columbus School

Additionally, eight scholars' poems received the honor of becoming "Judges Favorite."

The "Poetry for Peace" contest was developed by Dr. Nels Pearson, an assistant professor in the Department of English at Fairfield University, as the community outreach component of a "Poetry for Peace" initiative he designed. The 700 poems were reviewed by a team including Dr. Pearson, Dr. Jerelyn Johnson (Assistant Professor of Spanish), Dr. Kim Bridgford (Professor of English and Pulitzer Prize nominated poet), and six undergraduate and graduate students of Fairfield majoring in English and/or Education.

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students "college ready" and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit our website at www.bridgeportedu.com.