PRESS RELEASE

Washoe County School District K-12 Students Showcase Creativity in New Taxi-Tops

Reno, Nev. (APRIL 30, 2019) - Today the EDAWN Foundation and the Washoe County School District (WCSD) announced the ten winning schools in the 5th Annual Taxi-Top Design Competition.

Students were asked to create a taxi-top design representing "why the Greater Reno-Sparks region and Northern Nevada is a great place to live, work and play". The three First Place Winning designs will be displayed on Whittlesea taxis for a year. One winner was selected from each category of school; high school, middle school, and elementary. The winning designs are below.

Additionally, the EDAWN Foundation members expanded the contest to include identifying the top seven runners up designs and will provide each of their teachers $500.00 to offset the cost of much needed classroom art supplies. The prize money will go directly to the winning classrooms.

The ten winning designs included students from North Valleys and McQueen High School, Depoali Middle School, Mount Rose K-8 School of Languages and Jesse Hall Elementary School.

Winners were selected by members of the Arts Community and EDAWN Foundation members. Students, teachers, family, and community guests attended the award ceremony, held at the Washoe County School District Administration building in Reno.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's competition.

A special recognition to these First-Place winning schools.

North Valleys High School - Meredith Sink

- A beautifully done design with impressive style and technique that captures our regions spirit and diversity - everything good about our community!

Depoali Middle School - Keira A. Fraga

- A real representation of the breadth of experience to be found in the "New Reno" while beautifully depicting Lake Tahoe!

Mount Rose K-8 School of Languages - Cooper Sandoval

- Dynamic colors host a representation of our regional "Team Spirit" and "Family Fun" community!

Congratulations to the Runner-Up's:

North Valleys High School, Ricardo Rubalcaba-Peredes
North Valleys High School, Jerrika Wilson
McQueen High School, Kenny Choung
Depaoli Middle School, Samantha Grant
Depaoli Middle School, Ava Mary Kuhlman
Jesse Hall Elementary School, Sabrina Bataller
Jesse Hall Elementary School, Skylar M. Smith

We look forward to this competition each year and are always impressed by our students' outstanding artistic talent," said WCSD Superintendent Traci Davis. "This is a wonderful way not only to acknowledge their artwork, but to ensure that our community has a chance to appreciate it, too. My thanks to the EDAWN Foundation for supporting our students and staff members each year.

"Creativity is a skill in high demand for our region to help solve the complex challenges facing our businesses, government agencies, and communities," said EDAWN Foundation Board Member, Tony Manfredi. "In addition to improving our quality of life, engagement in the arts stimulates thoughtful conversations, requires adapt technical skills, and often involves collaboration in team structured environments. It's imperative that we develop these skills during the formative portions of our students' lives to ensure a strong foundation for creative thinking to thrive within the workforce for our future. The EDAWN Taxi Top campaign contributes to this effort."

About the EDAWN Foundation: The EDAWN Foundation is a private, non-profit 501c3, founded by the EDAWN Board to educate visitors, businesses and local citizens about economic advancement, growth and regional economic development opportunities. For more information, or to support the taxi-top campaign visit www.edawn.org.

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About Washoe County School District: The Washoe County School District includes the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area, Incline Village, Gerlach, and Wadsworth, Nevada. The District provides each of its 64,000 students with a superior education in a safe and challenging environment and is committed to graduate every child career and college ready. For more information visit: www.washoeschools.net. Follow us on Twitter at @WCSDTweet.

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