FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Washington, D.C. Area Students Win Top Prizes in C-SPAN's National Video Documentary Competition

Students nationwide tackle topics that are important to them, including artificial intelligence, abortion, and climate



Dermott Foley will receive $3,000 for the First Prize documentary, "The Promise of Langley Park: The Purple Line, climate change and reimagining the future of America's suburbs."

WASHINGTON (March 13, 2024) — Today C-SPAN announced that students in Silver Spring, Potomac, Germantown, Rockville, Bethesda, North Bethesda, Poolesville, Maryland and Washington, D.C. are 2024 prize winners in C-SPAN's 20th annual StudentCam competition.

Dermott Foley, a student at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, will receive $3,000 as a first prize winner for the documentary, "The Promise of Langley Park: The Purple Line, Climate Change and Reimagining the Future of America's Suburbs." This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 19 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

The following student groups are second prize winners and will receive $1,500:

Lumina Zhang and Teniola Tobun, students at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, for the documentary, "Food for Thought: The Hidden Realities of Food Insecurity." This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 15 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Leo Fan, Nikhil Rao and Jasper Jones, students at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring, for the documentary, “War in Orbit – The Fight for the Final Frontier.” This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 5 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

Dylan Zuriff and Ilana Handwerker, students at Eastern Middle School in Silver Spring, for the documentary, “Two Sides of the Street: The Fight for DC Representation in Congress.” This documentary will air on C-SPAN on April 9 at 6:50 a.m. ET and throughout the day.

The following student groups are third prize winners and will receive $750:

Mohit Patil, Dhruv Suri and Samarth Korada, students at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Germantown, for the documentary, “Scrolling Through the Years: The Effects of Short-Form Content.”

Isabella Langlee, Lydia Seo and Catherine Yang, students at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, for the documentary, “Foreclosure Fallout: Aftermath of the 2008 Housing Crisis.”

Eloise Redmann, Yasmine Wright and Celia Markowitz, students at Westland Middle School in Bethesda, for the documentary, “Every Little Bee is Gonna Bee Alright,” about accelerating urbanization and environmental impact.

Riley MacArthur and Sophia Jones, students at Montgomery Blair High School, for the documentary, “Changing Conversations: Podcasts, Politics, and Polarization.”

The following students are honorable mention prize winners and will receive $250:

Saint Albans School for Boys in Washington, D.C.

Jake Choi and Nelson Dorsey, for the documentary, "An Investigation of the US Public Health Service Syphilis Study."

Poolesville High School

Marshall Friedman and Kayal Vinoth, for the documentary, “Empower, Embrace, Educate,” about LGBTQ inclusive curriculum.

Holton-Arms School & Montgomery Blair High School

Michelle Tan, a student at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda and Hannah You, a student at Montgomery Blair High School, for the documentary, "City in Motion: A Public Transit Solution."

Rockville High School

David Zhang and Salomon Ortiz, for the documentary, "Wired for Progress," about artificial intelligence regulations.

Winston Churchill High School & Richard Montgomery High School

Lea Hong, a student at Winston Churchill High School, and Victoria Zhong, a student at Richard Montgomery High School, for the documentary, "Forever Chemicals: Forever Polluted," about the impact of PFAS.

Eastern Middle School

Lexi DeLeon, Sofia Guidorizzi and Anna Su, for the documentary, "Order in the Court: Introducing Rehabilitation in U.S. Prison Systems."

Isabella Avena, Veronica Cadenas Villafuerte and Aryam Araya, for the documentary, "America on American Women," about the pink tax and gender wage gap.

Max Waner, Vanessa Galdamez and Avery Lin, for the documentary, "Subtract the Additives," about the harmful effect of food additives.

Stephen Kim, Marc Lucea and Gunner Drews, for the documentary, "Unveiling the Threat: Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Explained."

Ryan Song, Grayson Luo and Samanyu Salgia, for the documentary, "The Human Genome Project: What's Next?"

Eton Smith and Isabel Woldeab, for the documentary, "What Covid Taught Gen. Alpha – The Coronavirus Pandemic and its Effects on Early Education."

Diana Ince and Oliver Hannum, for the documentary, "The Dangerous Effects of Fast Fashion."

Montgomery Blair High School, Westland Middle School and Green Acres School

Marcella Verchinski, Kaylee Hopkins and Casey Pendergast, for the documentary, "Not Guilty: The Impact of Victim Blaming in Sexual Assault Cases."

Katie Horvath-Wulf, Eliza Hogan and Lilia Lash, for the documentary, "Held Back: The Implications of the Held v. Montana Ruling."

Alana McMahon, Lila Grosko and Lucy Holland, for the documentary, "From Chemicals to Consumption: Digesting the Truth About the FDA."

Erol Kalayoglu, Raphael Diamon-Berman and Maximillian Skorczynski, for the documentary, "A Ride to Reform: Public Transit in the U.S."

Stuart Mallon, Evan Blenkinsop and Theo Hamaide, for the documentary, "Where Technology Meets Humanity," about artificial intelligence and transhumanism.

Laila Shaw, Neha Narayan and Zadie Brown, for the documentary, "The Protection Paradox: VAWA and Mass Incarceration," about the Violence Against Women Act.

Asher Anantham, a student at Montgomery Blair High School, Alana Anantham, a student at Westland Middle School, and Zarina Aronson, a student at Green Acres School in North Bethesda, for the documentary, "America Divided."

Priya Tapia-Pereira and Akiki Wong, for the documentary, "DACA: Over 20 Years of Important Impact."

Eva Dammann and Allegra Unger, for the documentary, "Nuclear Fusion: The Holy Grail of Clean Energy."

Elora Derbyshire and Livia Rosenberg, for the documentary, "Children in Crisis: Parental Restrictions on Mental Healthcare."

Rab Sharp and Mooti Chimdi, for the documentary, "Project 2025: Changing America Forever?."

Anjali Harrison, for the documentary, "The Antidote in Our Hands," about the child tax credit and its expansion.

Benjamin Kirby, for the documentary, "The Electoral College: It's Time to Drop Out."

Claire Walsh, Aidan Waner and Grace Sauri, for the documentary, "The Divided States of America."

C-SPAN, in cooperation with its cable television partners, asked middle and high school students to address the theme, ***"Looking Forward while Considering the Past,"*** through one of the following prompts:

a) In the next 20 years, what is the most important change that you would like to see in America?

-OR-

b) Over the past 20 years, what has been the most important change in America?

Now in its 20th year, this project-based learning experience gives students the opportunity to explore multiple perspectives on topics that are important to them. In response, over 3,200 students participated, and C-SPAN received over 1,600 entries from 42 states and Washington, D.C. The most popular topics addressed were:

- Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Social Media (18%)
- Abortion, Health Care, and Mental Health (17%)
- Climate, Energy & Land Use, and Pollution (13%)
- School Safety, Gun Policy, and Criminal Justice (11%)
- Economy, School Funding, and Homelessness (8%)

“In recognition of the 20th anniversary of C-SPAN's StudentCam competition, this year we asked students to either look 20 years into the future or to reflect on a topic of importance to them and its past," said Craig McAndrew, director of C-SPAN Education Relations. "Students have skillfully blended their perspectives with in-depth research and an array of expert interviews, and we are thrilled to share their accomplishments with their local communities, and the nation.”

C-SPAN is funded by America’s cable television companies, who also support StudentCam. In Silver Spring, Potomac, Germantown, Rockville, Bethesda, North Bethesda, Poolesville, Maryland and Washington, D.C., C-SPAN is available locally through Comcast.

"We are proud to continue our longstanding partnership with C-SPAN to help provide a platform for students across the region to share their voice on the issues important to them,” said Misty Allen,

Vice President of Government Affairs & Community Impact for Comcast's Beltway Region. "We congratulate these incredibly talented students on an outstanding achievement."

In honor of the 20th year of the competition, C-SPAN is gifting educators an additional $50,000, for a total of $150,000 in student and teacher cash prizes and awards. More than 300 students and 200 teachers from across the country are winning participants. C-SPAN is awarding one grand prize, 4 first prizes, 16 second prizes, 32 third prizes and 97 honorable mention prizes. The winning videos will receive cash awards of $5,000, $3,000, $1,500, $750 and $250, respectively.

Over the course of two decades, C-SPAN has awarded more than $1.5 million in prizes. Since 2004, over 63,000 students and 20,000 teachers have participated in the competition. StudentCam has been a catalyst for inspiring young minds to think critically about issues that are important to them and has empowered them with the tools they need to become informed, civically engaged citizens.

High School students competed regionally in one of three regions: West, Central and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The grand prize winner was selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

The 150 winning videos can be viewed at studentcam.org and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN. To schedule an interview with one or more of the winning students, please contact Pam McGorry at pmcgorry@c-span.org.

The annual StudentCam competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

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About C-SPAN Classroom:
C-SPAN Classroom uses the network's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, nonfiction books and American history to create FREE digital tools for teachers, students, and the public to use in classrooms, in projects or for research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Engage with C-SPAN Classroom on X/Twitter and Facebook.

About C-SPAN:
C-SPAN, the private nonprofit public affairs media organization providing Americans with unfiltered access to government proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry, and is primarily funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN's networks to subscribers. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, C-SPAN Podcasts, the C-SPAN Now app, a new connected-TV streaming app C-SPAN Select, C-SPAN.org and various social media platforms. The network's video-rich website contains nearly 300,000 hours of searchable and shareable content. Engage with C-SPAN on X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Threads, and YouTube, and stay connected through weekly and daily newsletters.

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