



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2015

Local Nonprofit Awards Cash Prizes – Second Annual Jeffco Writing Challenge

Winners will be announced by May 5th in the second annual Jeffco Writing Challenge. The Jeffco Writing Challenge Awards ceremony will host Denise Vega, award-winning author of books for kids and teens, as a keynote speaker. Charlee Burnor of Alice 105.9 will MC the Awards Ceremony and announce the winners of the writing contest.

GOLDEN, CO, April 17, 2015 –

Over 900 Jefferson county students participated in the Jeffco Writing Challenge, submitting short fiction and poetry imagining mash-ups of their favorite stories. The contest is sponsored by Education Nonprofit Corporation (ENC), a Golden-based nonprofit, in collaboration with Jefferson county educators. In this, the Writing Challenge's second year, the number of entries has tripled.

"We expected the Challenge to grow after our fantastic experience last year, but I don't think we expected quite this response," said Jody Thomas, adjunct English Professor and ENC consultant. "It's great to see such creativity and hard work from Jeffco students."

The idea for the Jeffco Writing Challenge was developed by ENC along with Willow George, a second grade Gifted and Talented teacher at Kyffin Elementary in Golden. When asked why she supported the contest, George replied, "A child's imagination is poured into their writing like paint on a canvas; they are creating their own masterpiece. Writing allows each of us to communicate with the world, giving us a way to let our hearts be heard. The Jeffco Writing Challenge embodies these principles, fostering the love of writing."

Teachers were encouraged to tell their students about the writing contest by Dr. Blanche Kapushion, Director of Gifted and Talented Educational Research and Design for Jefferson County Public Schools, who says, "We know the written word is a key to communicating one's thoughts, ideas, hopes and desires. This is an authentic opportunity for learners to share their creativity and ideas!"

Entries are judged by a panel of elementary to post-secondary educators. First place winners will receive \$100. Second place awards are Barnes and Noble gift cards, and third place awards are Baliyo skill toys.

ENC was founded in 2008 and has donated over \$190,000.00 to local schools since 2009.

ENC is also creating Jeffco Connect, a volunteer paired reading program where adults will read to students in schools, based upon the former “Everybody Wins,” reading program from Washington, D.C. To volunteer to read to a child, please contact Barbara Banning.

Contact Information:

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