



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2016

## **Local Nonprofit Awards Cash Prizes – Third Annual Jeffco Writing Challenge**

Over 1500 Jefferson county students wrote short fiction and poetry imagining time travel adventures for the JWC writing contest this spring! The Jeffco Writing Challenge (JWC) Awards ceremony will host Len Vlahos, award winning young adult author and new co-owner of Denver institution, The Tattered Cover bookstore, as keynote speaker and Charlee Burnor of Alice 105.9 as MC.

GOLDEN, CO, April 26, 2016 –

The JWC contest is sponsored by Education Nonprofit Corporation (ENC), a Golden-based nonprofit, in collaboration with Jefferson county educators. In this, the JWC Writing Challenge's third year, the number of entries has continued to grow.

"Entries are up by 50% over last year," said Jody Thomas, adjunct English Professor and ENC consultant. "It's great to see the community really embracing the Challenge this way."

Len Vlahos supports the Jeffco Writing Challenge because "in an age of texts, tweets, and emojis, we, as a society, need to do everything we can to cultivate literacy and literature in young people. The JWC Young Writer Contest is a perfect vehicle to encourage students to celebrate the written word."

Last year's winners and their parents report how participation in the Jeffco Writing Challenge helps students think of themselves as real writers, as well as appreciating all the hard work that goes into writing well.

After winning a prize as a 4<sup>th</sup> grader last year, Savannah Scriptor said "I would like to be known for my writing. This goal is not beyond reach, as I won first place in a district wide writing contest. I am a very good writer." Her mother, Holly, adds that Savannah is learning about "what it means to be a good writer, including having an ever-expanding vocabulary, developing editing skills, and continually revising."

Emma Camp Obenhauser, 6<sup>th</sup> grade winner last year, said "My favorite part was just seeing how the entire story turned out, because I didn't know what was going to happen to Dorothy at the very beginning when I started writing." Emma also reported feeling "very happy that somebody recognized me for my writing." Emma's mom saw a big change as a result of her participation in the Writing Challenge: "It had a huge positive impact! She believes herself to be a good writer and I know that she believes that in large part because of winning this award."

Finalists include the following students:

**Kindergarten Winners:**

1 <sup>ST</sup> PI- Kaylan Lessen	Fairmount Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Talon King	Fairmount Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> PI-Ruby Ausband	Red Rocks Elementary
HM – Natalie Helmer	Fairmount Elementary

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade Winners:**

1 <sup>st</sup> PI-Lily Woulfe	Elk Creek Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Skyla Olsen	West Jeff Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> PI-Anica Lest	Colorow Elementary
HM – Harry White	Wilmot Elementary

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Winners:**

1 <sup>st</sup> PI-Annikah Ramsey	Wilmor Davis Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Jacob Robben	Semper Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> PI-Ishir Jha	Kyffin Elementary
HM - Jacob Avitia	Foster Elementary

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Winners:**

1 <sup>st</sup> PI-William Johnson	Stober Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Jacob Yeagley	Lumberg Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> PI-Student	West Jefferson Elementary
HM - Liya Brunfon	Ralston Elementary

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1 <sup>st</sup> PI-Gwyneth Hirsh	Kyffin Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Tahlia Knoshaug	Mitchell Elementary
3 <sup>rd</sup> PI-Emily Blankenship	Kyffin Elementary
HM - Sophie Wong	Kyffin Elementary

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1 <sup>st</sup> PI-Arianna Scriptor	Stevens Elementary
2 <sup>nd</sup> PI-Danica Smith	Dutch Creek Elementary

3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Lanea Long  
HM - Autumn Marquis

Witt Elementary  
Devinny Elementary

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Robyn Darnell  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Blake Neb  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Jasmine Blustein  
HM - Jessica Morrisey

Woodrow Wilson Academy  
Bell Middle School  
Woodrow Wilson Academy  
Kyffin Elementary

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Sydney Pollock  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Connor Beasley  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Raya Wehner  
HM - Jax Collins  
HM - Daniel Nakayama

Creighton Middle School  
Woodrow Wilson Academy  
Bell Middle School  
Bell Middle School  
Bell Middle School

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Annika Schooler  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Talia Wehner  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Theodora Ciobanu  
HM - Elizabeth Ninke

Ken Caryl Middle School  
Bell Middle School  
Creighton Middle School  
Bell Middle School

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Madisen Hallsten  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Alex Abarro  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Marlena Ramirez

Dakota Ridge High School  
Arvada West High School  
Wheat Ridge High School

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Winner:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Isabella Gilman

Conifer High School

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Reanna Moore  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Madison Araujo  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Emma Pond  
HM - Leah Nolan

McLain High School  
Conifer High School  
Conifer High School  
Conifer High School

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Winners:**

1<sup>st</sup> PI-Kevin Douglas  
2<sup>nd</sup> PI-Jacob Willard  
3<sup>rd</sup> PI-Brandy Anderson  
HM - Brandy Anderson

Green Mountain High School  
Conifer High School  
Wheat Ridge High School  
Wheat Ridge High School

**Schools With The Most Finalists**

1st PI-Bell Middle School	\$500
2nd PI-Conifer High School	\$300
3rd PI-Kyffin Elementary School	\$200

**Schools With The Most Entries (Based on Student Enrollment)**

1st PI-Woodrow Wilson Academy	\$500
2nd PI-Bell Middle School	\$300
3rd PI-Kyffin Elementary School	\$200

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, third place awards are Baliyo skill toys, and Honorable Mention awards are Tattered Cover gift certificates.

ENC was founded in 2008 and has donated over \$212,000.00 to local schools since 2009.

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