

CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIX AREA HIGH SCHOOLERS WIN 2021 CNTA ESSAY CONTEST

Six area high school students won scholarships resulting from their winning entries in the 2021 Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness (CNTA) High School Essay Contest. Three students won \$1,000 apiece, and three students won \$500 apiece.

The winners of the 15th annual writing contest are:

\$1,000 Winners

- Benjamin DiPrete, Greenbrier High School, for “The Comparative Consequences of Energy.”
- Brian Johnson, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, for “The Four Major Electrical Energy Sources.”
- Rachel Walden, North Augusta High School, for “Environmental Impacts of Coal, Natural Gas, Nuclear and Solar Power.”

\$500 Winners

- Melissa Murph, North Augusta High School, for “Nuclear Technology vs Its Opponents.”
- Madison Ackroyd, Aiken Scholars Academy, for “Nuclear Power: A Sustainable and Environmentally Safe Energy Source.”
- Kaytlin Sturkey, Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School, for “How We Touch the Earth.”

The goal of the CNTA Essay Contest is to increase high school student awareness of nuclear technologies and their impact on society. Each student picked one of three topics for this year’s contest: (1) the relative carbon footprints and other by-products from four major electrical generation technologies; (2) current nuclear waste disposition methods and how to deal with this waste safely and securely; or (3) the use and lifecycle of nuclear technology in medicine.

“Successful essays required the integration of science, technology, social understanding, and language arts,” said Dr. Marissa Reigel, Chair of the CNTA Essay Committee. “Researching a technical topic, relating the information to society, and effectively communicating the information in writing are critical skills for high school students.”

Dr. Jim Marra, CNTA Executive Director, positively remarked on this year’s nuclear-themed essays. “This year’s winners focused primarily on the comparison between nuclear power and other common electrical generation technologies,” said Marra. “These students took a hard look at the data, and the

overwhelming consensus is that nuclear power is necessary to reduce carbon footprints and to ensure clean, sustainable energy for generations to come.”

The contest was open to high school juniors and seniors in Aiken, Allendale, and Barnwell counties in South Carolina and Burke, Columbia, and Richmond counties in Georgia; homeschool students; and students of CNTA member families. The winning students, their parents, and school representative will be honored guests and recognized at an upcoming CNTA event later this year.

CNTA would not be able to conduct this contest each year without the help of our sponsors. The 2021 sponsors include SRR, SRNL, and private donations.

The \$1,000 winning essays are available on the CNTA website at www.cntaware.org. For further information, call CNTA at 803-649-3456 or email at cnta@bellsouth.net.

CNTA is an Aiken-based charitable educational organization dedicated to providing factual information about nuclear topics and educating the public on nuclear issues.