

Human Rights Essay Contest Award Winners Announced

By Nancy Clark, Commissioner

The Austin Human Rights Commission has just completed the annual Essay Contest for middle school students. For the past four years the Austin Commission has joined together with the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions. All middle school students from Austin were encouraged to participate. The topic is selected by the staff of the League of Minnesota Human Rights Commissions and distributed to member commissions, like Austin. The Austin Commission then distributed the information to the staff at both Ellis and Pacelli Middle Schools. The topic that the students were asked to write about was:

Describe how you see these behaviors in your daily life and how they are related to each other: Stereotyping, Prejudice, and Discrimination. What can you and other do to combat these actions? Give examples that you have experienced or heard about.

We had another successful year. Many students worked hard writing essays. The essays were collected, and one of Austin's writing groups took the essays, carefully read through them and selected the winners. There were many excellent entries. The Writers Group had a difficult time selecting the winning essays from so many talented young authors.

This year's first place winner is Gema Alvarado from Pacelli. She won a \$100.00 savings bond and her essay has been sent to the state level for competition with other first place winners from other cities in Minnesota. Marni Surdy from Ellis is the second place winner. She won a \$75.00 savings bond. Lindsey Miller from Ellis is the third place winner, and she won a \$50.00 savings bond.

The commission would like to thank US Bank for donating a \$100.00 savings bond, Accentra Credit Union for donating a \$75.00 savings bond and Community Bank for donating a \$50.00 savings bond. We appreciate their support of this project and their support of the young writers who participated in the contest.