


National Arts Program®: Delaware State Employee Exhibition and Contest III Winners Recognized

Twenty-one talented state employees and their family members were recognized on March 8, 2014 for their works of art as the results of the National Arts Program®: Delaware State Employee Exhibition and Contest III. More than 300 people attended the Opening Reception at Delaware State University. Secretary of State Jeffrey Bullock and Division of the Arts Director Paul Weagraff presided at the Awards Ceremony.

In his remarks, Secretary Bullock commended the state employees and families members who contributed to the exhibition and recognized the high level of artistic achievement. He noted how this kind of exhibition reinforces the value of the arts and reflects the Governor's commitment to a rich cultural environment contributing to our quality of life in Delaware.

Mr. Weagraff commented, "This exhibit allows us to see a side of our colleagues that we don't often have an opportunity to witness in the workplace. It really heightens our awareness of how much of a role the arts play in so many lives." In addition, he thanked Delaware State University for this important partnership.

Twenty-one awards were announced in five categories – Professional, Intermediate, Amateur, Teen (13-18 years old), and Youth (12 years and under), culminating in one Best in Show. Sixteen cash prizes totaling \$2,400 were awarded by the National Arts Program®.

Two hundred sixty-three employees of Delaware state agencies and their immediate family members submitted artwork for the 2014 exhibition and contest. The participating artists came from across the state and represented 78 state agencies. And 63 were returning participants. 

Judges for the contest were Lorraine Polling, Retired Art Educator and Artist; Marc Clery, Professional Photographer; and Paul Shertz, Wildlife Artist. At their discretion, the judges awarded five Honorable Mention ribbons.

The Delaware Division of the Arts is proud to be the local sponsor of The National Arts Program®, an organization established in 1982 to identify, showcase, and reward the visual artistic talent in America. The National Arts Program® currently sponsors 82 annual programs, encompassing more than 450 cities and counties within 38 states.

The exhibition will be on view in the Arts Center/Gallery at Delaware State University through March 17. Hours for viewing are:

Monday – Friday, March 10-14 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 15 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 17 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

To view a complete set of all 263 art works, [visit the Division's Facebook page](#) or [view the artwork on Flickr](#). The image with the most likes on Facebook will be named the "People's Choice."

BEST IN SHOW (\$300):

Faith Kuehn

Wilmington

PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY:

1st Place (\$300)

Robert Palandrani

Wilmington

2nd Place (\$200)

Shanna O'Leary Weiss
Bear

3rd Place (\$100)

Shelley Koon
Lincoln

Honorable Mention

Aaron Paskins
Dover

INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY:

1st Place (\$300)

Luis Rios Fontanez
Dover

2nd Place (\$200)

Melanie Ferrin
Hartly

3rd Place (\$100)

Eric Enck
Georgetown

Honorable Mention

Christina Whiteman
Middletown

AMATEUR CATEGORY:

1st Place (\$300)

John Fitzgerald
Claymont

2nd Place (\$200)

Victoria Moore
New Castle

3rd Place (\$100)

Tammy Jefferson

Camden

Honorable Mention

Meghaan Carter

Media, PA

TEEN CATEGORY(13-18 years old):

1st Place (\$75)

Kristen Ball

Magnolia

2nd Place (\$50)

Luke Martin

Greensboro, MD

3rd Place (\$25)

Lauren Gaston

Smyrna

Honorable Mention

Alyssa Ortiz-Rivera

Smyrna

YOUTH CATEGORY (12 years & under):

1st Place (\$75)

Abigail Bucklin

Rehoboth Beach

2nd Place (\$50)

Dylan Drace

Seaford

3rd Place (\$25)

Katharine Whitelock

Seaford

Honorable Mention

Alex Krumrine

Magnolia