

NEWS

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES THE WINNERS OF THE 2009 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SAFETY CAMPAIGN CONTEST

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NEWS RELEASE FROM PERLA TABARES HANTMAN

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School Board Member Perla Tabares Hantman introduced the six winners of the 2009 Senior High School Student Safety Campaign Contest at the April School Board Meeting.

“This contest not only is a wonderful way for our students to showcase their talents, but it also is a conduit to getting an important message about safety to their peers,” said Ms. Hantman.

Twenty-eight students competed and three winners were chosen in each of the two categories: posters and 30-second Public Service Announcements (PSAs). The entries were judged for creativity, effectiveness and motivational appeal to inspire senior high school-aged students. In an effort to maximize student participation, District staff secured funding to provide monetary awards for three winners in each category, totaling \$950. The contributing entities were: the South Florida Educational Federal Credit Union, which donated \$450, and State Farm Insurance Company, through its Good Neighbor Citizenship Program, which donated \$500.

The Poster Contest winners, their schools and their prize amounts are as follows:

- First Place - Jose (Mikey) Soto from Southwest Miami Senior High School - \$225
- Second Place - Dakota Baker from Miami Lakes Educational Center - \$150
- Third Place - Vanessa Alonso from Miami Lakes Educational Center - \$100

The PSA Contest winners, their schools and their prize amounts are as follows:

- First Place - Yanelly Ruiz from Southwest Miami Senior High School - \$225 award
- Second Place - Andres Gonzalez from Ronald W. Reagan/Doral Senior High School - \$150
- Third Place - Carlos Gonzalez from Southwest Miami Senior High School—\$100

In further recognition of their accomplishment, the students will be acknowledged at the April 30, 2009 meeting of the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Governing Board, in which Ms. Hantman serves as Vice-Chairman, and their safety messages will be broadcast on WLRN after the regularly scheduled School Board meetings during the months of May, June, and July.

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Student Safety Campaign Contest / add one

The program was first started by the MPO and has partnered with the School District to promote pedestrian and vehicle driver safety at the senior high school level. To advance this safety initiative in a meaningful way, the MPO facilitated a \$25,000 grant to develop a Senior High School Student Safety Campaign. The \$25,000 grant funding will be used for the purchase of safety promotional items, and for the reproduction of the winning PSA's and posters, which will be distributed to all District senior high school campuses during the annual National Teen Driver Safety Week, designated by the U.S. Congress in the third week in October.

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