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November 27, 2018

Utah students ‘make their mark’ to earn college scholarships

my529, StepUp to Higher Education sponsor annual student art contest

(Salt Lake City) Eight Utah students won \$1,000 college scholarships for their artistic vision in my529 and StepUp to Higher Education’s Make Your Mark bookmark contest. More than 1,700 students in four age categories entered original designs for a chance at a \$1,000 my529 college savings scholarship account.

Kindergarten through third-grade winners were Athena Starr, a second-grader from Vista Elementary in Granite School District; and Sarah Smith, a third-grader from Jordan School District’s Welby Elementary.

Two sixth-grade students won the 4-6 category: Brandon Dunn from Plain City Elementary in Weber School District, and Sofia Guenter from Alpine School District’s Freedom Elementary.

Seventh-grader Hanxiao Shi from West High School in Salt Lake City School District and eighth-grader Beatrice Powell from Granite School District’s Wasatch Junior High triumphed in the 7-8 category.

High school students Rachel Palmer and Katie Willard represented grades nine through 12. Palmer, a sophomore, attends Alpine School District’s Pleasant Grove High School, and Willard, a junior, is from Clearfield High School in Davis School District.

The winning students were honored at an awards luncheon Friday, November 9, at Zions Bank headquarters in Salt Lake City.

A panel of five judges reviewed the submissions. Gov. Gary Herbert and First Lady Jeanette Herbert; University of Utah President Dr. Ruth Watkins; Utah artist Rad Cuch; and KSL-TV meteorologist Kevin Eubank served as the 2018 judges.

Make Your Mark is an annual event held during September, which Gov. Herbert has designated as College Savings Month. my529, formerly the Utah Educational Savings Plan, has sponsored the contest for nine years to increase awareness about saving for future education costs while promoting art, reading, and postsecondary education.

Scholarship funds can be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses like tuition, fees, computers, required books, supplies, and equipment. Winners can use funds at any college, university, or technical school in the United States or abroad that participates in federal financial aid programs for students—not just schools in Utah.

“Make Your Mark helps families begin—or continue—the conversation about college savings,” said Lynne Ward, my529 executive director. “Saving even small amounts regularly in a my529 account can add up. Utah families can also receive state income tax credits for contributions.”

See the winning entries at my529.org.

About my529

my529, Utah’s official nonprofit 529 educational savings plan, is highly rated by Morningstar Inc., and recognized by *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* magazine.

Accounts are free to open, and my529 requires no minimum deposit or account balance. my529’s user-friendly website, my529.org, makes it easy to open, manage, and contribute to an account online.

To learn more, visit my529.org, call toll-free at 800.418.2551, or email info@my529.org.

About StepUp to Higher Education

StepUp to Higher Education is an outreach initiative of the State of Utah that empowers 8th through 12th grade students and their families to prepare for college. StepUp believes every Utah student should pursue education after high school, whether that be a one-year certificate, two-year degree, four-year degree, or more. StepUp provides programs and resources to encourage college preparation and success, as well as training materials for school counselors.

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Investing is an important decision. Read the Program Description in its entirety for more information and consider all investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses before investing. For a copy of the Program Description, call 800.418.2551 or visit my529.org.

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