

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Jeff Carter
D.C. LEARNs
(202) 331-0141
jcarter@dclearns.org

2008 Women's History Month Essay Contest Award Winners Announced

Awards Reception to be held April 22nd at the True Reformer Building

Washington, DC, April 17, 2008 — The Adult Literacy Resource Center at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library has announced the winners in the 2008 Women's History Month Essay Contest, an annual invitation for students attending adult education programs in Washington, D.C. to showcase their writing. A reception and reading, co-sponsored by D.C. LEARNs, the District's literacy coalition, will be held on **Tuesday, April 22 from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. at the True Reformer Building**, 12th and U Streets, NW. All writers have been invited to come and read and will receive certificates and awards. All the first-prize winners who are present at the event will be eligible for a drawing that will be held for a new computer.

This year's essay theme was "Facing Problems." In the spirit of women such as Rosa Parks and Sojourner Truth, who confronted problems in their lives and shared their resulting wisdom with others, students were asked to write about their own challenges, how they have worked or are working through them, and what insights they have gained as they have moved through those processes.

There were seventy-six submissions for this year's contest, from students in eight programs across the District and one independent submission. Participants included native English speakers at basic/beginning, intermediate, and GED/advanced levels, as well as nonnative English language learners at several levels.

A list of the first prize winners and finalists, and the programs they attend, is provided below:

First Prize Winners

Lamar Collins	Concerned Black Men
Santos Hernandez	Carlos Rosario International Career Center & Public Charter School
Darrelle M. Johnson	Living Wages
JoEddie McCorkle	Literacy Volunteers and Advocates of the National Capital Area
Symone Woodard	Living Wages

Finalists

Charles Bailey	Concerned Black Men
Juanita Berry	Literacy Volunteers and Advocates of the National Capital Area
Mary Crumble	Academy of Hope
Juan Miguel Gaspar	Carlos Rosario International Career Center & Public Charter School
Heaven Dobbins	Marshall Heights Community Development Organization
Vilma Serrano	Carlos Rosario International Career Center & Public Charter School
Sonia Vanegas	Carlos Rosario International Career Center & Public Charter School

D.C. LEARNs (<http://www.dclearns.org>) is a nonprofit citywide coalition of more than 80 members (<http://www.dclearns.org/members.html>), most of whom are organizations providing adult, family, and children's literacy services to the residents of Washington, D.C. Our mission is to work with these organizations to strengthen literacy services and present a strong, unified voice on the importance of literacy as an investment in the community. We work to raise public awareness of literacy issues, recruit volunteers, and provide the materials, research, training, and technical assistance needed to raise the quality of literacy services available to D.C. residents.

Our vision is that Washington, D.C. will become a city where effective and innovative literacy services are available to all, guided by the leadership of the literacy providers themselves, and supported by a community that is committed to the education of all its citizens.

D.C. LEARNs manages the Read Out Loud Literacy Hotline, 1-866-READ-OUT (1-866-732-3688). Read Out Loud is Washington, D.C.'s public service campaign designed to help people looking to improve their literacy skills to locate programs and resources available here in the District of Columbia.

D.C. LEARNs receives funding support for our projects from both private and public entities, including the Government of the District of Columbia.