

West Virginians Receive National Recognition

Information and photographs provided by Jennifer Abbott of the Department of Education.

Once again, West Virginians have made an outstanding splash in the honors pool.

Superintendent of Institutional Education Programs Frank Andrews was one of ten people nationwide to receive the Lewis Hine Award this past April. This honor is given by The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) annually to five professionals and five volunteers for exceptional service to young people.



Frank Andrews

Individuals who receive this award have demonstrated a full commitment to the growth, well-being, and development of young people.

Lewis Hine was a photographer hired by the NCLC in 1904 to document the exploitation of children in

coal mines, clothing factories, textile mills, and farm fields. His work led to the enactment of child labor laws and universal education.

Andrews has 30 years of service with the Department of Education. His selection was made for his work with the both the Department of Education and the West Virginia Board of Education, which allowed them to accomplish education improvements in the lives of children and youth in institutions. Other past winners include Harry Belafonte, Michael Bolton, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Oprah Winfrey.

West Virginia Board of Education Member Paul J. Morris was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). NASBE presents this award to three current or recently retired members of state boards, representing three different NASBE geographic regions.

This honor recognizes outstanding contributions made to education and highlights the continued dedication of those who serve in the education of the country's children and youth.



Paul J. Morris

Morris has been a member of the Board for the past 25 years and is the longest serving among the current members. During his tenure, he has served as Board President for two terms, Vice President for three terms, and Secretary for one term. State School Superintendent David Stewart has only praise for Morris. "He has always demonstrated diplomacy and fairness on all issues that have been presented to the State Board of Education."

Our congratulations to both!

Well Done!

DHHR InROADS Program Internationally Honored

In the January, 2004 issue of *Stateline*, we informed you about InROADS, the Department of Health and Human Resources' (DHHR) new online application procedure for benefits. **InROADS** has been so successful that it earned a place as a finalist in the 2004 Stockholm Challenge Awards!

The Stockholm Challenge Awards are given to projects that provide innovative ways to use information technology and provide a great impact on people's lives – in essence, the best IT programs around the world are recognized and honored.

Nearly 900 projects from 107 countries were considered, and 103 finalists were selected in six categories (Culture, e-Government, e-Business, Health, Education, and Environment). An international jury of 27 experts

from the fields of education, business, and the public sector then chose ten winners. The InROADS program was one of 24 finalists in the e-Government category.

Although InROADS wasn't selected as a category winner, being chosen as a finalist is a unique and

WV Center for the Book Presents Letters About Literature Awards

Article and photograph contributed by Lori FitzGerald of the West Virginia Library Commission.

In a celebration that grows with each passing year, Karen Goff, Coordinator for West Virginia Center for the Book, reads another name off a long list of those being honored. As a nervous student enters the floating Cultural Center stage, flashes permeate the darkness, illuminating the proud faces of parents, grandparents, and teachers, as well as the pale faces of fellow students waiting to hear their own names called. This is one of the moments the students anticipate – when they are presented not only their certificates of achievement, but also a book that will appear in libraries throughout West Virginia and the United States in which their own letters are published. A sense of awe falls over the theater as the audience realizes that these children are now published writers!

So began the third year of the Letters About Literature Award Ceremony that took place April 22, 2004, at the Cultural Center Theater in Charleston.

Competitors in the Letters About Literature program have been through rigorous judging. To enter, students wrote personal letters to authors explaining how their work changed the students' views of the world or themselves. They selected authors from any genre – fiction or nonfiction, contemporary, or classic – even poetry, essays, or speeches.

Nationwide, all letters were submitted for national screening to one location in Dallas, Pennsylvania. Only the best in the country were forwarded to their home states to be judged by state-level judges. Once First Place letters were selected for each level, they were then submitted to the Center for the Book for national judging.

In West Virginia, 240 children in grades 4 through 6 competed on Level I, 185 in grades 7 through 8 competed on Level II, and 101 in grades 9 through 12 competed on Level III. A grand total of 526 West Virginia students competed across all three levels. Eighty-nine were selected as semi-finalists and all 89 were published in the book created by the West Virginia Library Commission for the West Virginia Center for the Book.

First place letters in all three levels always advance to compete on the national level, but this year, for the first time since West Virginia Center for the Book's inception three years ago, a West Virginia student has been named among the top six competitors nationally. **Fayetteville High School**



Fayetteville High School Senior Jill Meadows (center) was named one of the top six competitors nationally. Meadows is joined by West Virginia author Julie Baker (left) and Department of Education & the Arts Secretary Kay Goodwin (right).

senior, Jill Meadows, wrote her award winning letter to Frank McCourt, author of *Angela's Ashes*.

"I can never explain my gratitude for you and your book. You have changed my life in so many ways. Thank you for mending my relationship with my mother, but most of all, thank you for allowing me to see how wonderful every individual child is. Your book helped me to realize my immaturity, and it is you who taught me my most important life lesson."

Other First Place winners were **Haley Nicole Hurst Hodges** for her

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BLOOD ALCOHOL LIMIT DROPS TO 0.08

Last February, Governor Bob Wise signed legislation lowering the blood alcohol limit for driving from 0.10 to 0.08. The law went into effect on May 6, 2004. From the lowered limit, citizens will reap two benefits: \$2.6 million in federal highway funds, and more importantly, many saved lives. Illinois saw a 13.7% decline in the number of alcohol-related accidents during the first year of its 0.08 legislation.

! NOTE: Levels between 0.05 and 0.08 are relevant evidence to presume a person is driving under the influence.

** PLEASE **

DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

With hot weather here, it's time for picnics, boating, swimming, and other sporting events ... places where alcohol is common. If you consume alcohol, protect everyone. Don't drink and drive.

Governor Honors State Seal Contest Winners

LETTERS – Cont. from Page 2

Twelve years ago, then-Congressman and now-Governor Bob Wise developed and implemented the West Virginia State Seal Contest for 4th grade students in the 2nd Congressional District.

During the spring, 4th grade students study West Virginia history, and Wise believed the contest would be a fun way to learn about the different figures and symbols on the State Seal. Once he became Governor, Wise opened up the contest to all 4th grade students in West Virginia.

Teachers across the State have their students make an original (and generally colorized) drawing of the State Seal. A winner is chosen from each participating class, and the winners are encouraged to send in their entries for the statewide competition. Outside, independent judges review all submissions (anonymously, without knowing the name or school from which the drawing was submitted) and choose winners for First Place through Honorable Mention.

Every student winner is invited to attend a ceremony with the Governor where they are presented certificates. At the ceremony, the overall winners are awarded their honors. First through Fourth Place winners receive a plaque and a plate with the State seal made especially for the Governor by Homer Laughlin China (WV). In addition to these, the First Place winner also receives a vase with the State Seal engraved and a \$50 savings bond. The winning drawing is framed and placed on display at the Capitol.

This year, the ceremony held at the Cultural Center on May 22, 2004 saw more than 200 children eligible to attend. Judges were professional artists Stephen Cassle, Robin Hammer, Mitzi Kellog, and Betty Warner, and they chose the following winners:

1st - Courtney Napier, Lavalette Elem. (Wayne Co.)

2nd - Laken Adkins, Salt Rock Elem. (Cabell Co.)

3rd - Gabby Strazulla, Ruffner Elem. (Kanawha Co.)

4th - Morgan Davis, Milton Elem. (Cabell Co.)

In addition, Honorable Mentions went to: Madison Boehm, Orchard View Intermediate (Berkeley Co.); Allyson Brewer, Beth Haven Christian (Logan Co.); Takanao Kambara, Overbrook Elementary (Kanawha Co.); Jamie Lambert, Beverly Elementary (Randolph Co.); and Amber Wilford, Arnoldsburg Elementary (Calhoun Co.).

Congratulations to all students for a wonderful achievement, and a big thank you to Diana Smith, who coordinated the project and ceremony, and the over 30 volunteers who assisted.



Governor Wise honors 4th Grade State Seal Contest Winners at a ceremony on May 22, 2004.



Level I letter to **Kimberly Willis Holt**, author of *My Louisiana Sky*, and Carolyn Rose Garcia for her Level II letter to Charlotte Zolotow, author of *When the Wind Stops*. A complete list of winners is available on the internet at the West Virginia Library Commission's website (www.librarycommission.lib.wv.us). You can also stop by your local public library to read the entire Letters About Literature 2004 collection.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. This year, it was presented in partnership with Target Stores, with additional funding provided by educational publisher, Weekly Reader Corporation. West Virginia Center for the Book, hosted by West Virginia Library Commission in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council, is affiliated with the Center for the Book in Library of Congress.

Congratulations to all participants!

CONSUMER

The Internal Revenue Services (IRS) has issued a warning to consumers about an identity theft operation. By sending e-mails saying you are the subject of a tax investigation, the senders try to obtain personal information. The e-mail "looks" official, and offer the recipient the opportunity to dispute the tax fraud charge by logging onto a website. At the site, you're asked to fill in information like Social Security number, credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, and other identifying details.

THE IRS DOES NOT CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS MANNER.

If you receive an e-mail of this nature, delete it immediately.











WARNING

You Can Help Prevent Child Drownings

Contributed by Maureen Runyon of The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

With the coming of warmer weather, the West Virginia Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) has released a *Statement on Preventing Child Drownings in West Virginia*. This statement was prepared after a review of 23 accidental drownings over five years in West Virginia.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that for every drowning, there are six submersion injuries requiring emergency treatment. West Virginia has an abundance of water resources and our children often have ready access to these rivers and streams. This requires special diligence on the caretaker's part. From the review of the deaths and recommendations from other sources, the CFRT report recommends the following:

-  Increased supervision of children is required during any period of high water when they have access to a stream or river. Even small streams that may only have intermittent water in them can pose a serious hazard to a small child during and after periods of heavy rain. Children should never be left unattended when they can access water.
-  All pools should have a fence or barrier completely around the pool. The fence or barrier should completely separate the pool from the house. Some of the deaths occurred when toddlers gained access to pools from the house. The pools were fenced, but the fence connected to the house and used the house as part of the enclosure.
-  The fence or other barrier should be at least four feet high. It should have no foot or handholds that could help a young child climb it.
-  Swimming pool fences should be equipped with a gate that restricts access to the pool. A locking device should be included in the gate design. Gates should open from the pool and should be self-closing and self-latching.
-  In instances where homes have doors that open directly onto the swimming pool area or onto a patio leading to the pool, all doors that give access to a pool should be equipped with an audible alarm that sounds for at least 30 seconds when the door and/or screen are opened. The alarm should be able to be temporarily turned off by an adult for a single opening of the door by using a key pad or switch that is out of a child's reach.
-  Steps and ladders leading from the ground to an above-ground pool should be secured/locked or removed when the pool isn't supervised by an adult.
-  Pools should have wave motion detectors that issue a warning when an object falls into the pool. These devices can sound a warning to a remote location such as inside the home.
-  Gates should have sensors attached that give a warning of unauthorized entry similar to the wave motion detectors.
-  All members of the household with a pool should be trained in CPR. If submersion occurs, the sooner breathing is restored, the less potential for lasting injury.
-  Flotation devices and the ability to swim are not a substitute for direct adult supervision of children.

The publication can be found on the internet in at www.wvdhhr.org/bph/cfrr/drowning%5Fa.pdf. For more info, contact Maureen Runyon, Coordinator, West Virginia Child Fatality Review Team at 558-3920.

Pencil In ...



Did you know that **three clicks can save you gas money?**

Most modern vehicles have gascaps that "click" to seal. To properly seal the cap after fueling, turn it so that it clicks three times. An improperly sealed gas-cap lets fuel evaporate, causing environmental emission concerns and costing you more money.



June 6 is the **60th Anniversary of D-Day** - the largest military operation in history.

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prestigious honor. Being a finalist means that a group of highly qualified and respected experts found the program to be innovative and of the highest quality, and gives the program international recognition.

To commemorate the accomplishment, finalists receive a glass sculpture designed especially for the Stockholm Challenge by Bertil Vallien, Kosta Boda. Both winners and finalists also receive certificates affirming their work of excellence.



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