



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

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Winners of Aviation Art Contest Recognized by Aeronautics Commission

OKLAHOMA CITY – Nine Oklahoma students were recently recognized during an Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission meeting for their excellent artwork as part of the 2007 International Aviation Art Contest.

The contest, which is sponsored by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, encourages youth from around the world, ages 6-17, to reflect on aviation by designing a piece of art based on the year's chosen theme. This year's theme is "Airfield."

Co-sponsors for the international art contest are the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) Center for Aviation Research and Education, National Aeronautics Association, National Air and Space Administration and Federal Aviation Administration.

Nearly 400 students across Oklahoma participated in the contest. First-, second- and third-place certificates were awarded in three different age groups: 6-9, 10-13 and 14-17. The top three entries for each age group were also forwarded to Washington, D.C., to participate in the national contest.

Oklahoma's first-place winner in the 6-9 age category was Joshua Maddox, a fourth grader at Sacred Heart Catholic School in **El Reno**. Second place went to Jackie Hernandez of **Yukon**, who is also a fourth grader at Sacred Heart Catholic School. Third place was awarded to Karlie Terrill, a first grader at **Roland** Elementary.

In the 10-13 age category, Olivia Spears-Fletcher, a fifth grader at Skyline Elementary in **Stillwater**, was the first-place winner, while Summer Reese, a seventh grader at **Roland** Junior High, took home second place. There was no third place winner.

Hannah Schlesinger, an 11th grader at Oklahoma Christian School in **Edmond**, and Lindsey Winkeljohn, an 11th grader at Oklahoma Bible Academy in **Enid**, tied for top honors in the 14-17 age category. Bukola Jaji of **Tulsa**, an 11th grader attending the Oklahoma School of Science and Math in **Oklahoma City**, placed second. Benjamin Bese of **Drummond**, an 11th grader attending Oklahoma Bible Academy in **Enid**, placed third.

"These Oklahoma youth are to be commended for creating such terrific art pieces, which do a great job of capturing the excitement and the possibilities of the world's airfields," said Victor Bird, director of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission and this year's treasurer for the NASAO board of directors. "I'm encouraged by the fact that nearly 400 students around our great state participated in the art contest. That tells me that the future of aviation in our state and nation looks bright."

Founded in 1931, NASAO is one of the most senior aviation organizations in the United States. It represents the men and women in state government aviation agencies who serve the public interest in all 50 states, as well as Guam and Puerto Rico.

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's air transportation system comprised of 114 public airports.