



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. STUDENTS WIN AGAIN IN THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION ART CONTEST

Silver Spring, Md. -- The National Association of State Aviation Officials' Center for Aviation Research and Education proudly announces that three U.S. students are among the nine winners of the 2005 International Art Contest for young people sanctioned by the National Aeronautics Association (NAA) and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI). The NASAO Center organizes and, along with NAA, substantially supports the U.S. division of the contest. The winners were chosen during FAI's June meeting in Paris. FAI is the eighty-nation organization that conducts world championships and is official keeper of all aviation and space records.

Dustin He of New Jersey will receive the *FAI silver medal* in the competition among children in the 6 through 9 age group. In the competition for 14 through 17 year olds, Kate Vanderpool of New York will receive the *FAI gold medal* and Monte Botley of Arkansas tied with a Russian student for the *FAI bronze medal*. The other winners were from the nations of France, India, Japan, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Just days before the international awards were posted; all three children were mingling with astronauts and record-setting aviators in Washington, D.C. where they and the six other U.S. winners were presented with their national awards at the U.S. Senate Dirksen Building. The presentations took place during the NAA's prestigious annual award ceremonies. NAA is FAI's representative in the U.S. and both organizations are celebrating their centennials this year.

More than 8,000 young Americans entered their work in 31 different state art contests across the nation. The first, second and third place winners of those state events were then sent to the NASAO Center. Here in Washington D.C., the national competition was judged by Donald S. Lopez, National Air and Space Museum's Deputy Director; Deborah Gallaway of the NASA Explorer Institutes; Kathryn McDonnell, a noted visual artist in the Washington Metropolitan area; Margaret Finch, a well known artist who specializes in aviation and automotive art; and Jason Freeman a Presidential Management Fellow at the NASA Explorer Institute. They reviewed all of the artwork for style, composition and how well it depicted this year's international theme, 'Create an Air Show Poster - More Than 100 Years of Human Flight'."

The artwork of the young winners may be seen on the NASAO web-site at www.nasao.org. Those interested in the 2006 International Aviation Art Contest, the theme of which is "Air Sports and Nature in Harmony", should contact their state government aviation agency.

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The NASAO Center for Aviation Research and Education is a non-profit research affiliate, organization of National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), which seeks to improve the states' role in the future of the national air transportation system.