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Awards Presented to Students in 2006-2007 Cultivating Creativity: Consolidated Communication's Children's Traveling Art Exhibition

The students represented in the 2006-2007 Cultivating Creativity: Consolidated Communication's Children's Exhibition were recognized for their achievement at an awards reception held on April 23 at the Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University.

Each student represented in the exhibition was awarded a \$100 Savings Bond, provided by Consolidated Communications. Sarah Grieder of Consolidated Communications presented the awards. And Greider presented each of the participating Art teachers with a \$50 donation from Consolidated Communications in support of their schools' Art programs.

Cultivating Creativity is a traveling exhibit made up of art by elementary, junior/middle, and senior high school students representing forty area schools, with one piece of art per school. Cultivating Creativity is being exhibited in the communities of the represented schools.

The purpose of Cultivating Creativity is to showcase some of the outstanding art created by area students, to highlight the excellent work being done by area school Art teachers, and to emphasize the importance of including the arts in a well-rounded school curriculum.

At the awards program Tarble Arts Center director Michael Watts stated that the Cultivating Creativity program helps to highlight the importance of including Art in the school curriculum. Said Watts, "The Art teachers guide and encourage their students, they instruct and inspire them to be not only good artists, but also creative problem solvers and critical thinkers."

The students recognized at the awards reception were: Melanie Adams, Windsor Elementary School; James Addison, Charleston Middle School; Eva Bacon, Carl Sandburg Elementary School; Taylor Beals, Williams Elementary School; Amber Black, Windsor Junior/Senior High School; Mathew Burgener, Unity West Elementary School (Tolono); Milah Chowning, Stewardson-Strasburg Elementary School; Amanda Collins, Central A&M Middle School; Kelsey Conner, East Prairie School (Tuscola); McKenzie Crowell, West Side School; Grace DeClerck, Central A&M High School; Rachel Eden, Ashmore Elementary School; Jensen Evans, Jefferson Middle School; Cody Friese, Stewardson Strasburg High School; Hannah Fritcher, Neoga Middle School; Jacob Garver, Crestwood Elementary & Junior High School (Paris); Roberto Garza, Mattoon Middle School; Myles Hundley, Charleston High School; Morgan Hunter, Bond Elementary School; Katie Keck, Neoga High School; Ariana Kuhn, North Elementary School (Marshall); Savannah Masters, Findlay Elementary School; Jessica Mc Adams, Cowden-Herrick High School; Amber Meyer, Lake Crest School; Kelsey Meyer, Okaw Valley Middle School; Skylar Morrison, Cowden-Herrick Elementary School; Megan Netherton, Sullivan High School; Devon Nichols, Gregory Elementary School; Megan Rardin, St. Mary School (Mattoon); Brad Reedy, Effingham Junior High School; Justin Richardson, Kansas School; Kirsten Rutherford, Unity East Elementary School (Tolono); Samantha Shaw, Mark Twain Elementary School; Bria Smith, Jefferson Elementary School; Kristin Stevens, Mattoon High School; Ryan Tarrant, Pana Junior High School; Edgar Tijerina, Mattoon Middle School; Jessica Watkins, Arthur Junior/Senior High School; Mackenzie Waymoth, South Side

School (Effingham); Kayla Wheeler, Bethany Elementary; Travis Whitmore, Oakland High School; Zachary Willmore, South Elementary School (Marshall); and Caleb Yoder, Arthur Grade School.

The 2006-2007 tour takes Cultivating Creativity to 12 sites, from Tuscola to Effingham and Assumption to Paris. Currently the exhibit is at the Tuscola National Bank through May 10. Upcoming venues are: Citizens National Bank, Oakland (May 12 – 31), Edgar Co. Bank & Trust, Kansas (June 2 – 21), Marshall Public Library (June 23 - July 12), Paris Carnegie Public Library (July 14 - August 2), EIU's Booth Library, Charleston (August 4 – 23), and the Cross County Mall, Mattoon (August 28 - September 9).

The exhibit is made up of art done in a wide variety of media and styles. There are tempera, oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings, drawings in pencil, ink, pastel, and marker, plus collage. Other media include textiles, printmaking, photography, and scratchboard. The styles are equally diverse with pieces done in representational, abstract, and non-objective modes. Subjects include friends, family members, animals, still lifes, flowers, landscapes, and fantasy subjects like dragons and monsters.

Cultivating Creativity is an educational and outreach program of the Tarble Arts Center. The Tarble Arts Center also offers a variety of other programs for area schools, including a tour/workshop Enrichment program open to area fifth grades each fall and spring, an Art Enrichment program for junior/senior high art students, a month-long artist-in-the-schools residency, guided tours of exhibitions, and teacher workshops. Most programs are presented free of charge to participating schools.

For more information about Cultivating Creativity or other programs contact the Tarble Arts Center at 217/581-ARTS (-2787). The Tarble Arts Center is funded in part by Tarble Arts Center membership contributions, the Tarble Arts Center Endowment/EIU Foundation, and by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.