

News Release: PGCPs Honors Students' Cinematic Skills at Third Annual Film Festival

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD –On April 15, more than 400 students and teachers gathered at The American Film Institute in Silver Spring to take part in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) third annual film festival.

"The film festival showcases videos produced by our students and gives them an opportunity to see their work much like it would be in the real world," said Barbara Liedahl, instructional specialist for PGCPS's media arts and creative arts programs. "The festival also allows our students to receive feedback from industry professionals and their peers, which is always a huge part of the learning process for our students."

This year's Academy Awards were presented to:

Best Film: "Metro"

- Bowie High School students: Julian Gray, director/camera operator/writer/original score/editor; Anthony Owooje, editor/writer/director/camera operator; Jacob Lee, writer/camera operator/director; Jovan Kellough, writer/camera operator; Brian McAbee and Kristy Le, actors; Mark Arcusa, teacher.

Best Cinematography: "Misconceptions"

- Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School students: Rodney Travis, director/actor; Victoria Jones and Brandon Hobbs, producers; David Shanklin and Caleb Simpson, camera operators; Kenar Leftridge, Cobey Barnes, Rosario Birrueta, and Brandi Robinson, actors; Rylan Hales, Lance Williams, Keshawn Rhue, Jada Jones, Antonio Cockrell, Kayla Bowman, Brandon Golson, Mariama Kamara, Terry Mayo, Gerald Boyd, Christian Hawkins, Newton Williams, Yesbit Rivas Robles, and Daquan Smith, extras; Kimberlyn Nyarko, teacher.

Best Script/Story: "Life"

- Bowie High School student: Alexandra Crump, producer/writer/camera operator/editor; Mark Arcusa, teacher.

Sound Design: "Fear"

- o Hyattsville Middle School students: Michael Baugher, writer/director/camera operator/editor; Lucas Pierce, actor; Carlo Natividad, teacher.

Special Effects: The Lockdown”

- o Suitland High School students: Mary Lane, producer; Lontrese Simmons and MeKali Felton, editors; Aminah Majied, writer; Joshua Rogers and Wendy Wilson, technicians; Terrence Allen, audio; and the TV production classes at Suitland; Richard McGhee, teacher.

Acting: “Relatable Topics”

- o Laurel High School students: Michael Ofili, actor/director; Anthony Akarolo, camera operator; Brandyn Parrish and Robert Giuliani, actors; Robert Giuliani, teacher.

Best Middle School Film: “Fear”

- o Hyattsville Middle School students: Michael Baugher, writer/director/camera operator/editor; Lucas Pierce, actor; Carlo Natividad, teacher.

“The People’s Choice Awards,” which are based on public voting, was given out for each film category, at each grade level. Recipients of these awards include:

Under-A-Minute Challenge:

- o “Peer Pressure is Bullying! Let’s End It”
Thomas G. Pullen students: Jabari Smith, Maylannah Spires-Peterson, and Isaiah Desperett, actors; Isaiah Perkins, director/camera operator; India Suggs, narrator/voiceover; Jonathan Spinks, teacher
- o “Life”
Bowie High School student: Alexandra Crump, producer/writer/camera operator/editor; Mark Arcusa, teacher

Documentary/Informative:

- o “Cyber Security 2015”
Hyattsville Middle School students: Luz Chavez, editor; Natalie Gil-Davis, camera operator; Carlo Natividad, teacher
- o “Northwestern VPA Promo”
Northwestern High School students: Brian Davila, director/editor/cinematographer; Herbert Estrada and Freddie Rene, cinematographers; Andre Lee, teacher

Feature:

- o “The Plague”
Thomas G. Pullen students: Taylor Davis, director/camera operator; Enoch Osiberu and Kennedy Young, talent; Jaquil Mitchell, talent and camera operator; Jonathan Spinks, teacher
- o “The Hop On”
Laurel High School students: Michael Ofili, actor/writer/director/musical score; Vincenzo Santoro, Daniel Tyler, Gracy Onuma, and Michael Obasi, actors; Anthony Akarolo, camera operator; Brandyn Parrish and Ali Jilani, boom mic; Netochukwu Obichere, supervisor; Robert Giuliani, teacher

Local professionals in the TV/Media Production industry judged the videos based on criteria such as cinematography, lighting, sound, plot, transitions, and creativity.

In addition to celebrating the student-produced videos, Bond Mill Elementary School student Jocelyn Motley was also honored at the event for receiving Honorable Mention at the White House Film Festival in March. Her video, *A Simple Act of Kindness*, was viewed by President Barack Obama and can be watched online at <https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/pgcps-2015-film-festival/elementary-entries> (<https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/pgcps-2015-film-festival/elementary-entries>).

PGCPS middle and high school students submitted their videos as part of their academic performance assessment. These students are enrolled in either a Technology Integration or a TV/Media Production class at one of the following schools: Hyattsville Middle School, Greenbelt Middle School, Thomas G. Pullen Performing Arts K-8 Creative and Performing Arts School, Charles H. Flowers High School, Northwestern High School, Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, Laurel High School, Bowie High School, Frederick Douglass High School, Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Suitland High School, High Point High School, and Central High School.

Anita Lambert, coordinating supervisor for Creative Arts Programs, and Barbara Liedahl, instructional specialist - Media Arts, along with TV/Media Production teachers: Tara Jones (Flowers HS) Angela Batten (Greenbelt MS), Kimberlyn Nyarko (Wise HS) and Patrice Lawrence (Frederick Douglass HS) organized the film festival.

To view student videos, please click **here** (<https://sites.google.com/a/pgcps.org/pgcps-2015-film-festival/>).

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

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