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CELEBRATE NJ! POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED:
MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOASTS SIX WINNING ENTRIES

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- Six students from Middlesex County are being honored in the first Celebrate NJ! poster contest. Ten-year-old Jamie Kwan of Edison took the \$250 second place slot, and 16-year-old Michele Chang of Edison won the \$100 third place prize. They were among 12 winners chosen from more than 300 posters entered statewide

Second place winner Jamie, says, “New Jersey is a wonderful place to live, and we can make it an even better place by stopping pollution.” Her poster was an outdoor scene including many of New Jersey symbols – gold finches, violets, honeybees, red oak trees, and couples square dancing on the shore. She also managed to include a lighthouse and a hot air balloon.

Michelle explains, “I’m excited that I was given the opportunity to enter this contest.” Her poster shows three children of diverse backgrounds holding posters; one of a lighthouse, one a shore scene, and another, a basket of Jersey tomatoes.

The contest was designed to encourage children and adults to pay tribute to our state using their artistic talents. The winning posters will be on display at the Governor’s Gala at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark on June 8th.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the following individuals:

- Christina Li, East Brunswick, age 15
- Whitney Xu, Metuchen, age 9
- Michelle Zhou, Monmouth Junction, age 10
- Kevin Ge, Edison, age 6

Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ! says, “We are so impressed with the level of creativity and talent in these 12 winning posters, and in all 300 posters submitted. This is a wonderful way to “Celebrate NJ!” and these posters vividly showcase the positive characteristics of our great state.”

All posters submitted were required to provide one or more reasons to celebrate New Jersey, in keeping with the “365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ! Campaign.” The campaign asks New Jersey residents to describe what they celebrate about our state in 25 words or less. Each day another “Reason” is selected as one of the "365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!"

Celebrate NJ! invites everyone who has a Reason to Celebrate NJ! to log on to www.CelebrateNJ.org and enter that reason. No deadlines have been set. The group will continue to unveil the reasons each month based on the number of days in a particular month. Residents are encouraged to enter multiple reasons describing the interesting and unique aspects of the Garden State. Entry cards are also available at over 350 libraries across the state. The selected reasons are announced daily on the organization’s website. The best 365 reasons will be published as part of an advertising and media campaign, taking place on outdoor ads across the state and through radio, television and newspaper promotions.

The “365 Reasons to Celebrate NJ!” campaign is made possible through the generous support of sponsors NJ Cable Telecommunications Association, ArborSys Group, NJ101.5 Radio, and St. Barnabas Health Care System. For more information about the campaign, visit www.CelebrateNJ.org.