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**STUDENT AUTHORS FROM SOMERSET, HUNTERDON AND MERCER  
COUNTY HONORED FOR THEIR WRITING SKILLS: CELEBRATE NJ!  
HOSTS AWARDS NIGHT**

(Bradley Beach, NJ) -- It was standing room only as 45 student authors from Somerset, Hunterdon and Mercer counties, whose articles were selected for publication by Celebrate NJ!, were honored at a special award ceremony at Arbor Glen in Bridgewater on Monday (May 14, 2007).

*(Editor's Note: See school list at end of release)*

All of the students participated in an interactive online program designed to make the required study of New Jersey a fun and engaging project. The challenge was to help create a newspaper written by and for New Jersey kids about New Jersey researching subject areas from arts to science to sports and everything in between.

Karen Hatcher, Executive Director of Celebrate NJ! says, "I was impressed with how poised these students were when summarizing their projects. They chose some very challenging topics, from Lenape Indian survival in colonial times to protecting our environment and the use of ocean power as an alternative fuel today. By making connections to New Jersey's people, places, business, events and history, we hope these students are inspired and feel proud to call New Jersey home. The awards event gives the rest of us the opportunity to be inspired by them—New Jersey's future."

Alexandria Township Mayor Harry Feurstenberger, Bridgewater Councilman Allen Kurdyla, and Somerset County Freeholder Director Robert Zaborowski were on hand to congratulate the students. Each spoke about the students' accomplishments, and the importance of using their communication skills to help build New Jersey's image.

The honored students were also visited by Sparkee, the Somerset Patriot's Mascot. Each student who participated in the program, whether selected for an award or not, has also been invited to take part in one of eight Celebrate NJ! nights which will be held at minor league baseball parks across the state. Students from Somerset, Hunterdon and Mercer counties will attend the Somerset Patriots game on June 4, 2007.

Students from the following schools were honored at the event: Adamsville Primary School, Bridgewater, Bradley Gardens Primary School, Bridgewater, Crim Primary School, Bridgewater, Hamilton School, Bridgewater, Holy Family Academy, Bound Brook, JFK Elementary School, Raritan, Old York School, Branchburg, Princeton Charter School, Princeton, Alexandria Middle School, Pittstown, Clinton Public School, Clinton and The Kids' Homeschool Network, Flemington.

To read the student's online newspaper and learn more about the Celebrate NJ! school program, go to [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org).