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Harford County Public Schools Represented Well at Annual “Rethink Recycling” Sculpture Contest

Joppatowne High student earns first place in ‘Use of Materials’ category

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) high school students represented their schools in grand fashion at the “Rethink Recycling” sculpture contest held in Annapolis. This was the 17th annual contest hosted by the Maryland Department of Environment to recognize and celebrate America Recycles Day.

Maryland high school students were challenged to use recycled and reusable materials that would otherwise end up in landfills to create artistic and innovative sculptures. Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan attended the event and shared opening remarks, welcoming student artists, teachers, and parents.

A judging panel, comprised of members from the Maryland Institute College of Art and the Maryland Department of the Environment’s Land and Materials Administration, was tasked with determining the winners of the contest based on creativity and workmanship.

Stephanie Zulak, from Joppatowne High School, impressed the judges with her entry titled, “Cirque de Corbeille,” which was a dress made of cassette tape, rope, spoons, crayons, discarded jewelry, coffee filters, K-Cups, pill bottles, trash bags, and marker lids. Stephanie’s entry took first place in the ‘Use of Materials’ category. In addition to her certificate, Stephanie received a prize of JBL Pulse 3 Bluetooth speakers.

Several other HCPS students participated in the event with creative sculptures.

Aarnav Devulapalli, Gus Lupica, and Aidan Melvin from Aberdeen High School all worked together to enter their sculpture titled, “Through the Lens.” Noelle Thorpe, another Aberdeen High student, entered a piece she titled, “Halloween Town Graveyard.” C. Milton Wright High School was well represented by Victoria Sylvester with her entry, “Vitam Novam - A New Life.”

“We have all learned to reduce, reuse, and recycle. But the fourth ‘R’ stands for rethink. This contest gets us to look at materials differently and consider other uses to keep them from our waste stream,” said Andrew Cassilly, resource conservation manager for HCPS.

Wendy Doring, the Harford County recycling coordinator, was also at the event and said, “Harford County students provided excellent presentations which showcased their understanding and passion of the environment and community for Harford County.”

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Attached picture: Stephanie Zulak, from Joppatowne High School, impresses First Lady Yumi Hogan and Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment Ben Grumbles with her sculpture.