

Statewide Awards Presented in Washington State PTA Reflections Cultural Arts Program

The Washington State PTA recently presented awards to the recipients of the association's statewide Reflections cultural arts program. This year's Reflections program challenged students from kindergarten through 12th grade to create and share art inspired by the theme, "I can make a difference by..." More than 15,000 students from 442 schools created artworks in one of six media: literature, visual arts, photography, musical composition, film/video and dance/choreography. For a complete list of all the statewide Reflections winners go to http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflections_winners2008.htm.

The Reflections Committee, chaired by Maureen Monson of Renton, and the 41 judges collectively donated more than 500 volunteer hours in support of the program. These numbers do not count the thousands of volunteer hours given to the program at the local and council levels of the program.

"Because of PTA's strong commitment to Reflections, we will continue to give thousands of children the chance to participate in the arts and to be recognized as artists," said Maureen Monson, Washington State PTA Reflections Chair. "We are proud to give children this opportunity and grateful to the many volunteers who make Reflections happen each year. We hope to have even more participants in next year's program, the theme for which will be 'Wow!'" The Reflections program is sponsored by the National PTA, headquartered in Chicago. Eight students from Washington were recognized at the national level and will have their artworks presented at the upcoming National PTA Convention in San Diego.

The Washington State award recipients at the National level include: Aliese Poole, Award of Merit in photography; Elija Forslof, Award of Excellence in photography; Athena Stirbis, Award of Merit in choreography; Stevie Reiff, Award of Merit in choreography; Brittney Smith, Award of Excellence in choreography; Cindy Zhao, Award of Merit in visual arts; Rebecca Morris, Award of Excellence in visual arts; and Austin Carney Award of Excellence in music.