

# **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

For Immediate Release

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## **DEWITT HONORS ART CONTEST WINNER**

House Speaker Charlie DeWitt today announced the winner of the House of Representatives First Annual Holiday Card Art Competition. The winner is Whitney Courville of Barb High School and Calcasieu Career Center in Lake Charles.

Courville's entry, "A Greeting for the Season," features a U.S. flag surrounded by Louisiana symbols, including the state capitol building, alligator, pelicans, a bald cypress tree and a magnolia flower, all in vivid primary colors. The entire card is bordered by a string of multi-colored Christmas lights.

Speaker DeWitt greeted Courville, several family members and art teacher Bobbi Yancey at the State Capitol today. He presented the student with a \$100 gift certificate for art supplies and a state sweatshirt.

Entries came from a request to the Louisiana Art Education Association for artwork. The association got the word out to art teachers throughout the state. The winning entry was selected from a large collection of original art work submitted by Louisiana students, grades K through 12. The artwork will be used as this year's House of Representatives' holiday card.

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DeWitt said he saw this contest as "a great way to showcase Louisiana students's talent and portray something positive about our state, our young people and our education system. Art is a big part of our state's heritage and what better way to highlight that than with the art of the next generation. "

Courville's state representative, Dan Flavin, said he was very proud to learn that the winner came from the Lake Charles area.

"I was excited about us including students in the design the House holiday card and it is really special to have the winner come from our area. Whitney is very talented and I hope she will pursue her art. I congratulate her and her teacher."

The Louisiana Art Education Association is a group of concerned art educators who believe that a structured art program should be a part of the education curriculum for all children in grades K-12.

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