



May 09, 2022

PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP ESSAY WINNERS – LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

Lincolnton, NC – On May 3, 2022, at the Lincoln County Health Department, the Lincoln County Board of Health awarded three local students with scholarships as a result of the inaugural Public Health Leadership Essay Contest. The Lincoln County Board of Health created the contest to engage the next generation of leaders in public health and help deserving students graduate and give back to society.

The contest was open to Lincoln County students in grades 9-12 in public, private and homeschool educational settings. Participants were required to submit an essay that provided a solution to a relevant public health issue. From these essay submissions, three candidates were selected to provide an in-person presentation on their essay to a review board where the winners were selected based on their writing and presentation skills. These students showcased their intelligence, speaking talents and potential to become our future public health leaders at last Tuesday's Board of Health Meeting. The essay contest winners were announced Tuesday evening; Jaelyn Freeston, an 11th grader from East Lincoln High School finished in first place with her topic of Substance Use, Seraphina Shutt, a 9th grader from West Lincoln High School secured second place with her topic of Side-Stepping Salmonella with Safety Standards and Lance Beam, a 10th grader from Lincoln Charter earned third place with his topic of Mental Health Reform. Freeston, Shutt and Beam were awarded \$700, \$450 and \$200 scholarships, respectively. Jaelyn's essay is available on the Lincoln County Health Department website at www.lincolncounty.org/health.

It is the hope to spotlight public health in a non-traditional capacity, to engage family and teachers around the efforts of young leaders and foster interest of future thinkers and to create a public connection that links scholastic focus, personal families, teen enthusiasm and a governing board for a common purpose.



(Lena Jones, Kim Zickefoose, Dr. Kim Hoyle (Co-Chair), Andrew Loftin, Dr. Laura Schrader, Rich Permenter, Jaelyn Freeston (Winner), Phyllis Tallent, Sheldon Lutz (Chair) and Dr. Brian Dedmond)



(First place, Jaelyn Freeston, Second place Seraphina Shutt, Third Place, Lance Beam)

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