



Student and Staff Achievements February 2021

Senator Murphy's MLK Essay Contest

U. S. Senator Chris Murphy selected **Davenport Elementary Fifth Grader Krish Bande** as a 4th Congressional District Winner in his 5th Annual *Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay Contest* in January. According to the senator's office, Krish's essay was among some 2,800 entries received from elementary, middle and high school students across Connecticut that each reflected on Dr. King's dream and the student's own aspirations. Krish was one of only three winners in our district and the only winner from Stamford.

Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

The *2021 Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition* recognized students from all three SPS High schools. Students across America submitted nearly 320,000 original works this year in 29 different categories of art and writing. The following students were recognized for their literary works in *The 2021 Hudson-to-Housatonic Writing Region of the Scholastic Writing Awards*, which is administered by Writopia Lab:

- **Daniel Mihok, AITE:** Honorable Mention, Poetry (Teacher: **Edward Donnelly**)
- **Rodrigo Sierra Vettorazzi, AITE:** Honorable Mention, Dramatic Script (Teacher: **Edward Donnelly**)

The following students were awarded for their artistic contributions in the Connecticut Regional Art Award, an affiliate of the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers:

- **Ivana Nique, SHS:** Two Gold Keys, Ceramics (Teacher: **Carolyn Daher**)
- **Charlotte Long, WHS:** Two Honorable Mentions, Photography (Teacher: **Tamara Dilworth**)
- **Iker Gonzalez, WHS:** Honorable Mention, Painting (Teacher: **Robin Konrad**)

As a Gold Key winner, Ivana Nique will automatically be considered for national recognition. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the awards program.



2021 Honorable Mention in the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) recently selected **Academy of Information Technology & Engineering (AITE) Senior Adena Russel** as a National Honorable Mention in the *2021 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing*. **AITE Teacher Florina Merturi** nominated her for the award. Adena plans to major in Biometry and Statistics at Cornell University this fall. Adena currently works as a Research Intern at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a Department of Energy laboratory. She also works as a freelance website designer and has created custom websites for non-profits and private businesses. In 2019, NCWIT named her a Connecticut Affiliate Honorable Mention.