



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ada Limón

## Ada Limón Named the 24<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate of the United States

*The Queens University of Charlotte MFA instructor to offer her first event in Latin America on July 28th*

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (July 12, 2022)** – Ada Limón, who is on the faculty of the Master of Fine Arts degree program at Queens University of Charlotte, has been named the 24th Poet Laureate of the United States by the Library of Congress. Limón will open the Library's 2022-2023 literary season on Sept. 29 with a reading of her work in the Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium in Washington, DC.

"Ada Limón is a poet who connects," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said in a [press release](#). "Her accessible, engaging poems ground us in where we are and who we share our world with. They speak of intimate truths, of the beauty and heartbreak that is living, in ways that help us move forward."

Limón has taught in the Queens University of Charlotte Master of Fine Arts (MFA) program since 2014, both in Charlotte and in Latin America. She is one of the core faculty in the Latin America track, teaching in it since its inception.

"What an incredible honor to be named the 24th Poet Laureate of the United States. Again and again, I have been witness to poetry's immense power to reconnect us to the world, to allow us to heal, to love, to grieve, to remind us of the full spectrum of human emotion," Limón said.

"This recognition belongs to the teachers, poets, librarians and ancestors from all over the world that have been lifting up poetry for years. I am humbled by this opportunity to work in the service of poetry and to amplify poetry's ability to restore our humanity and our relationship to the world around us."

Limón is the author of six books of poetry, including *The Carrying*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry and was named one of the top five poetry books of the year by the *Washington Post*. Her fourth book *Bright Dead Things* was named a finalist for the National Book Award, a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her most recent book, *The Hurting Kind*, was published in May. Limón also hosts *The Slowdown* poetry podcast and works as a freelance writer in Lexington, Kentucky.

While her term as Poet Laureate officially begins in September, Limón will be the first Poet Laureate to offer an early event outside of the country as she conducts her first unofficial event at the Queens University of Charlotte Latin American residency in Buenos Aires on July 28. Limited to Queens University of Charlotte MFA students, faculty and staff, the bilingual conversation on poetics, moderated by Queens MFA faculty and co-founding editor of the Buenos Aires Review Maxine Swann, will also include Argentinian poets Laura Wittner and Daniela Auginsky.

"Ada Limón is both a great talent and a fantastic builder of community. She will be outstanding in this new post," said Fred Leebron, director of the MFA program at Queens. "At Queens we always say that the irony of creative writing is it gets done in isolation but it takes a community to sustain it. Ada has been so integral in building that community."

The Queens University of Charlotte Latin America residency was launched in July 2014 as part of a vision of more deeply connecting MFA students to Latinx culture. MFA students may move back and forth between Charlotte and Latin America residencies during their matriculation in the program which rotates among Buenos Aires, Argentina; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Santiago, Chile for its annual two-week residencies.

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### **About Queens**

Queens University is a private, coeducational university located in Charlotte, N.C. The university serves nearly 2,500 students with 43 major and 63 minor undergraduate degree options and 12 graduate degrees. Students represent 44 states and 70 foreign countries. As part of the university's vision to promote educational experiences that nurture intellectual curiosity and promote global understanding, nearly two-thirds of traditional undergraduates participate in study abroad experiences and 100 percent take part in internships. The U.S. News & World Report ranked Queens 15th among regional universities in the south in its 2022 edition of Best Colleges.

### **About the Laureateship (from the Library of Congress)**

The Library of Congress Poetry and Literature Center is the home of the Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, a position that has existed since 1937 when Archer M. Huntington endowed the Chair of Poetry at the Library. Since then, many of the nation's most eminent poets have served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and, after the passage of Public Law 99-194 (Dec. 20, 1985), as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry – a position which the law states "is equivalent to that of Poet Laureate of the United States."

During his or her term, the Poet Laureate seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties required of the Poet Laureate, who opens the literary season in the fall and closes it in the spring. In recent years, Laureates have initiated poetry projects that broaden the audiences for poetry.

For more information on the Poet Laureate and the Poetry and Literature Center, visit [loc.gov/poetry](https://www.loc.gov/poetry). Consultants in Poetry and Poets Laureate Consultants in Poetry and their terms of service can be found at [loc.gov/poetry/laureate.html](https://www.loc.gov/poetry/laureate.html).



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## **Queens University President Dan Lugo and Lowe's CEO Marvin Ellison to Announce Lowe's \$2.5M Investment in New Talent Initiative**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (Mar. 29, 2022)** – Queens University of Charlotte President Daniel G. Lugo will welcome senior executives from Lowe's Companies Inc. to officially announce details of the Charlotte Talent Initiative (CTI), a newly established partnership between organizations in Mecklenburg County and Queens to expand Charlotte's talent pipeline while also impacting the lives of low-income graduates of local high schools.

Lowe's representatives, including Marvin Ellison, chairman and chief executive officer; Janice Dupré, executive vice president of human resources; Margi Vagell, senior vice president and general merchandising manager; and Joel Cogdell, division president, South Division; as well as Sherri Chisholm, executive director, Leading on Opportunity; will join President Lugo for a press conference and check presentation to formalize Lowe's \$2.5 million investment at the Belk Chapel, 2234 Radcliffe Avenue, on the campus of Queens University on Tues. March 29, 2022, at 4 p.m.

"The Charlotte Talent Initiative is an immersive cohort program designed to accelerate the economic trajectories of students who have historically been excluded," President Lugo said. "We are beyond honored to have Lowe's as our first corporate partner in this bold effort that begins to level the playing field for talented young people, regardless of their socioeconomic background, while also fueling Charlotte's engine of economic mobility."

CTI will create pipelines of socioeconomically diverse and talented university graduates to contribute to the most pressing organizational needs of partner organizations. The annual Lowe's investment over four years will provide full-tuition scholarships for students in the Lowe's cohort. Through the partnership, Queens will create a cohesive set of business management opportunities to educate students in modern leadership within the context of a liberal arts curriculum.

"We're committed to opening more doors for talented and hard-working students because we know that creating pathways to economic and social mobility is critical for building the workforce of the future," Ellison said. "By welcoming students of all backgrounds to explore retail management careers, this partnership is right in keeping with Lowe's history of investing in communities and our

focus on initiatives that break down barriers to opportunity. And it aligns perfectly with our commitment to make a meaningful impact on our hometown Charlotte community."

The Lowe's partnership will enable Queens to infuse curricular and co-curricular management experiences throughout the student experience. The program will provide students with an authentic application of learning while providing Lowe's a pipeline of valuable interns and graduates.

"Collaborative college and career readiness efforts like the Charlotte Talent Initiative are putting low-income students on the path toward achieving economic mobility," said Sherri Chisholm, executive director for Leading on Opportunity. "Queens' and Lowe's commitment to these students' success through education combined with mentorship and internship opportunities will help them be successful in the classroom and life. These types of partnerships will help us close the economic mobility gap – one family at a time."

The first Lowe's student cohort will begin in the 2022 Fall semester. Students will take a suite of management, business and leadership courses designed and developed in partnership with Lowe's while pursuing a major in their chosen field of interest.

"The success of the Lowe's and Queens partnership will expand our applicant pool, increase retention and graduation rates, and enable the university to change the trajectory of the lives of traditionally under-resourced students who are poised to make meaningful contributions to our community," President Lugo said. "This is the beginning of an extraordinary journey for Queens and Lowe's as we partner to recruit, educate, support, and propel students to incredible business careers and lives of purpose, meaning and impact."

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### **About Lowe's**

Lowe's Companies, Inc. (NYSE: LOW) is a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company serving approximately 19 million customer transactions a week in the United States and Canada. With fiscal year 2021 sales of over \$96 billion, Lowe's and its related businesses operate or service nearly 2,200 home improvement and hardware stores and employ over 300,000 associates. Based in Mooresville, N.C., Lowe's supports the communities it serves through programs focused on creating safe, affordable housing and helping to develop the next generation of skilled trade experts. For more information, visit [Lowes.com](https://www.lowes.com).



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## **President Broderick's State of the University Address Highlights ODU's Progress Despite the Pandemic**

*"We have moved forward with bold initiatives, partnerships and many successes," he said.*

**Norfolk, VA** – (November 9, 2020) – Old Dominion University continues to thrive despite the challenges created by COVID-19, President John R. Broderick said in his 13th annual State of the University address, which was delivered virtually on Monday.

"Nobel Prize winner Desmond Tutu said, 'Hope is being able to see that there is light, despite all of the darkness.' Old Dominion is pursuing the light," President Broderick said. "Despite the constraints and hurdles facing us, we have moved forward with bold initiatives, partnerships and many successes."

He spotlighted ODU's intensified collaborations in the maritime and health-care fields.

He cited the University's critical role in the newly formed Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth & Innovation. A work group, led by Nancy Grden and Mileta Tomovic, will "frame a strategy for ODU to become a maritime model for the world," President Broderick said. "We will build synergies from strongholds in such areas as resilience and supply chain management, and we will pursue opportunities to engage in pioneering research."

He pointed out ODU's role in launching the first two operating offshore wind turbines in the Southeast. When the project is completed in 2026, it is expected to be the largest wind farm in the country, supplying power to 650,000 homes.

In health care, he cited the state's establishment of the Hampton Roads Biomedical Research Consortium, consisting of ODU, Eastern Virginia Medical School and Sentara Healthcare. The commonwealth has engaged a consulting firm to study the ideal structure for this collaboration.

President Broderick said these are prime examples of how ODU values collaboration.

"Maritime and health care are literally miles apart, but these developments both rely on the value of partnerships," he said. "We don't believe in going it alone."

Other important collaborations he noted were a joint project with NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, led by graduate student Brett Buzzanga, to pinpoint the worst spots for subsidence in Hampton Roads and two new efforts between ODU's Center for Global Health and Physicians for Peace.

There was also the Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists (REYES) initiative, spearheaded by Giovanna Genard and Raúl Briceño. Taught by ODU faculty as well as researchers from institutions including NASA, the Jefferson Lab and the Mexican Space Agency, the program attracted 7,400 registrants from 115 countries, which "adds to our substantial record in diversity and inclusion," he said.

Among other successes he cited:

- More than \$1 billion in new resources in the past 12 years, including \$186 million from the University's ongoing fundraising initiative, and, most recently, \$17 million in additional general funding from the state.
- ODU's enrollment increases in the summer and fall semesters, with 3% growth in the latter, which defies national trends.
- Old Dominion's launch of its School of Cybersecurity, the only one of its kind in the country with a dual focus on undergraduates and graduate students. Under Michael Wu's leadership, the program has grown from 11 to 800 students in five years, filling a crucial workforce need in the commonwealth.

President Broderick also announced a \$5 million commitment from the Batten family to endow the University's sailing program. That is among several major gifts in the past year, including a \$1 million donation from alumnus Michael Le for the digital theater and modern planetarium in the new Chemistry Building and bequest commitments of more than \$1 million each from James Mills, William Edelstein and Chandra Brooks. Other significant gifts came from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation for Recover Hampton Roads and from GENEDGE for our Engineering Makerspace and Invention Center.

Looking ahead, President Broderick said two new buildings will open next semester: The Hugo Owens House, which with 470 beds will be the University's second-largest residence hall, and the Chemistry Building, a state-of-the-art facility that will include 37 labs. Additionally, a new Health Sciences facility is on track to open in 2022 and the University has planning permission for a biology building.

President Broderick said this means that total funding for STEM-H facilities planned or under construction has reached nearly a quarter of a billion dollars.

"This is great news for the region's future job generation and job retention efforts in both STEM-H and new business startups," he said.

A video of the address can be seen at <https://odu.edu/stateoftheuniversity>.

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### **About Old Dominion University:**

Old Dominion University is Virginia's entrepreneurial-minded doctoral research university with more than 24,000 students, rigorous academics, an energetic residential community and initiatives that contribute \$2.6 billion annually to the Commonwealth's economy.



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## **ODU Signs Tech Talent Investment Agreement**

*MOU provides \$29.2 million over the next two decades to increase computer science and computer engineering graduates*

**Norfolk, VA** – (November 7, 2019) – As part of a statewide effort to stimulate the production of computer science and computer engineering graduates, Governor Ralph Northam announced today that Old Dominion University was selected to participate in the Commonwealth's Tech Talent Investment Program.

"This initiative is an investment in Virginians," said Governor Northam. "Virginia's tech sector will continue booming only if we can train the workforce those jobs require. With today's announcement, we are educating a workforce that will fill jobs at hundreds of tech companies around the Commonwealth, including at Amazon, helping boost our economy and quality of life in every corner of Virginia."

Old Dominion University will receive \$29.2 million over the next two decades to help grow the number of computer scientists and computer engineers in the Commonwealth. Continued funding is contingent on meeting graduation targets in these key fields.

"We are excited to participate in the Tech Talent Program, which will offer access, diversity, cost-effectiveness, and affordability to Virginians," said President John R. Broderick, who led the university's effort to be a part of the program. "More importantly, as a leader in distance learning and social mobility, we will be able to leverage those strengths to make sure that residents from the Eastern Shore to Appalachia, and everywhere in between, have the opportunity to earn degrees in these high demand areas."

He also noted that Old Dominion produces the second-largest percentage of STEM-H graduates among Virginia's doctoral institutions.

As part of the agreement to participate in the program, the University has committed to producing an additional 765 bachelor's degree recipients in computer science and computer engineering by 2039. The vast majority of this growth is expected to come from online programming.

One of the university's first distance learning programs, enrollment in online computer science courses is expected to grow as students continue to seek innovative course delivery methods.

To provide additional opportunities for degrees in high demand, ODU will begin to offer its Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering online. It will be the first computer engineering program available in an online format in Virginia and one of only a few available in the nation.

"Whether working with degree completers or first-time freshmen taking classes online from anywhere in the Commonwealth," said Brian Payne, vice provost for academic affairs, "we will make sure that the curricula and support needed to help students succeed in these programs is available."

Other strategies planned include:

- Growing on-campus enrollments in computer science and computer engineering through enhanced outreach, recruitment and partnerships with businesses.
- Expanding 3+2 degree programs in computer science and computer engineering with universities that don't have BS programs in these areas.
- Working with regional employers to offer cohort-based programs to up-train existing employees and serve as a pipeline for new employees.
- Expanding outreach and support programs to help those leaving the military stay in Virginia and earn degrees in computer science and computer engineering.

Past trends highlight the demand for computer science and computer engineering programs at ODU. In fact, degrees awarded in these fields increased by 83.9 percent between 2013-14 and 2017-18.

"Building on ODU's ability to recruit a diverse student population, which includes a higher percentage of students of color, women, and degree completers, and our legacy of giving access to non-traditional students who cannot always attend on-campus classes, these graduates will help to increase the inclusivity and reach of the tech talent pipeline," Broderick said.

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## **Communities can help laid-off workers gain new jobs, workforce study says**

BLACKSBURG, Va., April 1, 2015 – Southwest Virginia economies continue to reel from declines in coal production and employment.

Against this backdrop, communities can seize opportunities to better support and retrain displaced coal mine workers in an industry where jobs fell to a record low of less than 4,000 in 2014, a Virginia Tech workforce study says.

"It's important that we don't throw displaced miners on the scrap heap," said John Provo, director of the Office of Economic Development. "They have marketable skills and opportunities."

The study found that many coal industry workers possess skills in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering, and math.

"These competencies are highly compatible with many manufacturing jobs in areas such as the manufacturing of plastics, rubber, and metals," said Scott Tate, senior economic development specialist in Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development and the study's primary author. "Other relevant fields include recycling and biomass as well as advanced machining."

The study analyzed top occupations in the region, a basis for local government leaders and the region's workforce entities to "recognize transferrable skills and address worker skill gaps," Tate said. The region includes seven counties and is covered by the [Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board Area One](#).

Coal industry workers are part of Southwest Virginia's sizable "middle skill" workforce, able to perform jobs that require less than a bachelor's degree yet pay higher wages than jobs typically available to those with less than a four years of college.

The Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board commissioned the study, which analyzed more than 100 occupations.

Darrell Blankenship, Southwest Virginia Workforce Investment Board Area One's executive director, says, "This study helps us better understand the skills of our workers and how some skills can be developed to help them transfer to related occupations."

– more –

*Invent the Future*

The study recommends:

- **Use data to address competency gaps.** Gaps in basic skills limit employment options for transitioning workers. Workers with high levels of competency in science or technology, for example, may possess lower levels of competency in "soft skills" such as communication, customer service, administration, and writing.
- **Support growth of manufacturing, health care, tourism, and the professional, scientific and technical industries through training and recertification incentives.** In varying degrees, these areas hold promise for boosting the regional economy based on industry concentration, growth potential, or occupation earning levels.
- **Continue to develop innovative training and certification.** Community colleges and other training institutions offer programs, but more models and delivery methods must be added to reach a larger labor pool. For example, workers with coal industry-related technical skills may lack formal certifications or credentials that new employers may require.

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), [Virginia Tech](#) takes a hands-on, engaging approach to education, preparing scholars to be leaders in their fields and communities. As the commonwealth's most comprehensive university and its leading research institution, Virginia Tech offers 225 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to more than 31,000 students and manages a research portfolio of \$496 million. The university fulfills its land-grant mission of transforming knowledge to practice through technological leadership and by fueling economic growth and job creation locally, regionally, and across Virginia.

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## Virginia Tech ranked in top 10 percent among 3,500 of the world's best universities

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BLACKSBURG, Va., Sept. 17, 2015 – Virginia Tech jumps 17 places to be among the top 10 percent of universities in the world among more than 3,500 universities, according to Quacquarelli Symonds, [\(QS\) World University Rankings released Tuesday](#)<sup>[2]</sup>.

In what PR Newswire calls "the most popular annual league table of world universities" based on web traffic, social media metrics, and online consumers, Virginia Tech rose from 355 to 338 in the world.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering held the position of 45th in the world for the second year in a row and third year in the top 50.

Less than a year after being recognized by U.S. News & World Report as an institution that will appeal to students "[who plan to enroll in universities outside of their own country](#)"<sup>[3]</sup>, Virginia Tech's rise in international standings is not a new revelation for Guru Ghosh, vice president for [Outreach and International Affairs](#)<sup>[4]</sup>.

"Virginia Tech continues to rise in these global measurements because of what we already know - that our faculty, research, and programs are among the best in the world," he said. "International research and engagement will continue to play a key role in achieving Virginia Tech's goal to be among the top three percent globally."

The QS World University Rankings aim to provide a useful resource for prospective students worldwide who are seeking to identify the most prestigious and influential institutions in their chosen subject of study. The rankings are based on survey responses by faculty throughout the world, but respondents are asked to evaluate only universities in their region.

The methodology, as listed on the QS World University Rankings' website, consists of six indicators that assess universities in four areas: research, teaching, employability, and internationalization. Four of the indicators are based on "hard" data, and the remaining two are based on major global surveys - one of academics and another of employers - each the largest of their kind. The indicators include:

1. Academic reputation (40 percent)
2. Employer reputation (10 percent)
3. Student-to-faculty ratio (20 percent)
4. Citations per faculty (20 percent)
5. International faculty ratio (5 percent)
6. International student ratio (5 percent)



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## Matthew is Gone and Events are ON!

*Weekend festivities throughout the Grand Strand to go on as scheduled*

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C., October 12, 2016 – Despite ongoing Hurricane Matthew recovery operations, the Myrtle Beach Area is bouncing back and welcoming visitors. Mike Bettles of the Weather Channel said during a live broadcast from the Boardwalk yesterday, "It's sunny and beautiful and business as usual here in Myrtle Beach... why not come on out!"

Great events taking place this week/weekend:

Pawleys Island Festival of Music & Art – Thursday, October 13 through Saturday, October 15

Georgetown Boat Show – Friday, October 14 – Sunday October 16

Myrtle Beach Seafood Festival – Saturday, October 15

See more Grand Strand events [here](#).

"Myrtle Beach is back in business and it's going to be a great weekend," says Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. "Myrtle Beach is known for its resilience. Power crews have been working around the clock and have done such an amazing job that it's hard to imagine just a few days ago we were dealing with a huge storm, now we're welcoming back visitors. But it's not just about the visitors. We know a lot of people depend on tourism for their jobs and livelihoods, so getting our economy back up and running is good for everyone."

An ongoing survey by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce reveals that many businesses are open or well on their way to being open for business! For an updated list of business openings visit the chamber website as well as the Visit Myrtle Beach website.

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### About The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

Since 1938, the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce has stood as the unified voice of the Grand Strand's business community. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has awarded the MBACC its five-star accreditation, one of only several chambers in South Carolina to earn this distinction. The MBACC serves Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Little River, Atlantic Beach, Garden City Beach, Loris, Conway, Aynor, Murrells Inlet, Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island. For more information, visit [MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com](http://MyrtleBeachAreaChamber.com). The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce is the proud recipient of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' "2015 Chamber of the Year" award.



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTEST SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENT AND DESIRE TO BE COLLEGE-READY**  
***New Visions for Public Schools Announces Kicks Off “Good to Go (G2G) Campaign”***

**NEW YORK, February 26, 2010** – New Visions for Public Schools, the largest education reform organization dedicated to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City’s public schools, today announced plans for a four-year college-readiness campaign aimed at building excitement about college and career readiness among students as young as ninth grade.

“College and career seem like a far off places for ninth graders, both in terms of geographical distance as well as in time,” explained Robert Hughes, President of New Visions. “The G2G campaign is a new and exciting step in making career and college-readiness a culture-changing attitude among students and parents who too often think it’s out of reach academically and financially.”

Intended for New York City public high school students who attend New Visions schools, the *Good to Go Contest* is a unique opportunity for students to demonstrate through the arts why being college and career ready — or “good to go” (G2G) — is important to them, their school or their family. All entries must be written, produced, choreographed and/or created and performed by a New Visions HS student or students in one of the four categories:

1. **Video/Skit:** Three to five-minute film or skit uploaded to [www.nycg2g.com](http://www.nycg2g.com) in a video format.
2. **Song/Dance or step routine:** Three to five-minute song, dance or step routine.
3. **Artwork:** Drawing, painting or sculpture (including, but not limited to, pottery, stained glass, metal work, ceramics and mosaics).
4. **Essay, editorial, speech or poem:** A 1,000 to 1,500-word manuscript that does not rely on visuals, graphics or images.

“The quality of the entries is just extraordinary,” said Keith Pierce, Director of Communications at New Visions and creator of the G2G campaign concept. “The campaign had already generated a lot of buzz in our schools. The added enthusiasm displayed by the sheer amount of time and effort students put into the contest, is a good indicator that we are boosting awareness of what it takes to be college and career-ready.”

– MORE –

The contest began in late January. Voting began immediately after entries were uploaded and ends at 11:59 p.m. today, Feb. 26, 2010. Submissions that earn the highest number of votes per category will be forwarded to official contest judges made up of professionals related to each of the four categories. Video/skits are being judged by writer/director, Matt Jablin of MTV. Song and dance routines are being judged by Tony Award-winning composer and Tony Award-nominated actor, Lin-Manuel Miranda; writer of Broadway's "In the Heights." Artwork is being judged by Nathan Sensel of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Essays are being judged by author and former New York Times reporter, Paul Tough.

Each judge will select the top three winners among the top 10 vote-getters in each category. Submissions are judged on **relevance** to the meaning of G2G (50 percent), **overall creativity** (30 percent) and **performance/presentation** (20 percent).

The nearly fifty entries uploaded by the deadline of February 19, generated over 10,500 hits on the G2G Web site and roughly 2,000 total votes. With fourteen submissions, Port Richmond high School submitted the highest number of entries.

For each category, New Visions will award one first-place prize of \$1,000, one second-place prize of \$400, and one third-place prize of \$200. Students contributing to winning group entries must share their winnings among all participants.

Finalist will be announced at the G2G Talent Show Extravaganza on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at Brooklyn Museum. A reception, hosted by representatives from area colleges and universities who will provide value college information to students and parents, will begin at 6 p.m. Performance and awards ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a performance by the Academy Award-nominated Harlem youth group, Impact Repertory Theater.

#### **About New Visions for Public Schools**

New Visions for Public Schools, founded in 1989, is the largest education reform organization dedicated to improving the quality of education children receive in New York City's public schools. The organization uses data to focus instruction, provide customized support to leadership teams and advocate on behalf of schools. New Visions' staff is made up of former principals, superintendents, school founders, teacher leaders, professors, researchers and community leaders, all with extensive experience in leadership, curriculum and instruction, school-based operations, parent and community involvement, youth development and advocacy.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Oprah Winfrey's New Education-Focused Philanthropy Program, O Ambassadors, Selects Two *MicroSociety* Schools to Participate**

PHILADELPHIA, PA January 10, 2008 —Two *MicroSociety* schools, Chula Vista Community Learning Center in Chula Vista, California, and Sarah Cobb Elementary in Americus, Georgia, have been chosen to participate in Oprah Winfrey's O Ambassadors program. "We're thrilled with the news, though not necessarily surprised," says Carolynn King Richmond, President and CEO of MICROSOCIETY, INC. a Philadelphia-based education non-profit. "Global awareness and a strong focus on service learning is at the heart of the *MicroSociety* program, as well as being a hallmark of the administrations running both of these outstanding schools," Richmond explained.

The program, a partnership by Oprah's Angel Network and Free the Children, pairs schools in North America with people in developing nations around the world. Efforts will rally around one of the United Nations' four Millennium Development Goals: poverty, education, health, and sustainable development.

Through classroom activities or extra curricular after school programming, selected O Ambassador Schools will focus on one of the five regions in our world worst hit by poverty, hunger, and disease: West Africa, East Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Latin America. Students will plan and execute activities to help raise funds for development projects in their chosen region, and to increase awareness within the school community about difficulties facing men, women, and children there.

Currently in their first year of program implementation, Sarah Cobb Elementary is a new addition to the *MicroSociety* community. Conversely, Chula Vista Community Learning Center, an internationally themed charter school, is one of *MicroSociety*'s most senior sites, with eleven years of programmatic experience.

In the *MicroSociety* program, students create a microcosm of the real world within the classroom. Each student has a role in running that world. Young entrepreneurs produce goods and services, elected officials establish laws, Peacekeepers keep the peace, and reporters track down stories. All citizens earn wages and pay taxes, tuition, and rent. For one class period per day, in a society of their own design, students assume the role of citizens and learn by playing, doing, and working as they discover the rules of justice and the functions of money, markets, and property.

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MICROSOCIETY, INC. is a non-profit organization representing an innovative research-based approach to K-8 education that introduces relevancy into learning by incorporating real-world experiences into basic school curriculum and helping students apply classroom learning to real-life situations. Designed to empower young people to take an active role in their own education, *MicroSociety* programs incorporate student interests such as citizenship, leadership, performance, journalism, and entrepreneurship into the learning process. Student jobs in a *MicroSociety* program reinforce basic academic skills and lessons, providing them with opportunities for drill and practice and preparing them to be leaders.

The *MicroSociety* program provides the motivational tools necessary for students to envision a future of exciting possibilities and make the academic and career choices required to achieve that future. Find out more about MICROSOCIETY's national conference as well as its programs and services at [www.microsociety.org](http://www.microsociety.org) or call Keith Pierce at 215-922-4006.

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