

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: F.C. "Rocky" Rockholm, Supervisor, District 1

DATE: May 27, 2008

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION – Approve a Commendation congratulating Roshawnda Bettencourt for winning first place in the 2008 California Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Commendation congratulating Roshawnda Bettencourt for winning first place in the 2008 California Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition.

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Poetry Out Loud competition was started by the California Arts Council as part of a national initiative to bring literary arts to students. Studies have shown that there has been a dramatic decline in literary reading, especially among young readers. In 2004, the National Endowment for the Arts published their report Reading At Risk which documented the decline in literary reading and brought forth the need for literary arts in U.S. schools. There are 147 schools in California participating in the program. This year marked the third time the California Arts Council produced the Poetry Out Loud competition with hopes that the contest will encourage high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition of classical poetry.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

In the Matter of a Commendation honoring
Roshawnda Bettencourt for winning first place in the
2008 California Poetry Out Loud State Finals competition.

WHEREAS, the Poetry Out Loud competition was started by the California Arts Council ; and

WHEREAS, this is the third year for the Poetry Out Loud competition program; and

WHEREAS, the Poetry Out Loud program encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance and competition of classical poetry; and

WHEREAS, Poetry Out Loud uses a pyramid structure for the competition that begins in the classroom, advances to school-wide competition then on to the state competition with finalists competing at the National Finals in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Roshawnda Bettencourt is an active student at Oakmont High School in Roseville, California. She has participated in many scholastic programs such as the Oakmont High School Theater Arts, the Oakmont Comedy Sports Team and has played basketball where she was the team captain for the current school year; and

WHEREAS, during the Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition, Roshawnda Bettencourt recited three poems, "Sympathy" by Paul Laurence Dunbar, "Time Does Not Bring Relief: You All Have Lied" by Edna St. Vincent Millay, and "Passing" by Toi Derricotte; and

WHEREAS, the judging of the recital is based on physical presence, voice and articulation, appropriateness of dramatization, level of difficulty, evidence of understanding the message being conveyed, overall performance and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2008, Roshawnda Bettencourt won first place at the 2008 California Poetry Out Loud State Finals Competition and a chance to compete at the national level.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT, the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby congratulate Roshawnda Bettencourt for her outstanding performance during the California Poetry Out Loud State Finals competition and wishes her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5