



For Immediate Release

GLOBAL VIRTUAL CLASSROOM 2018/19 AWARD WINNING WEBSITES ANNOUNCED

May 1, 2019 - The Give Something Back International Foundation (GSBI) has announced the winners of the 2018/2019 Global Virtual Classroom Contest (GVC) - a free online collaborative learning project that fosters creativity, cross cultural understanding, helping others, while also learning website design skills.

Sponsored by GSBI, the GVC Program provides an opportunity for primary and secondary school students from around the world to work with and learn from each other as they collaboratively design a website on a topic of their choosing. A panel of International judges evaluates the final work and determines the winners.

Contest participants virtually collaborated with students in other countries to create and build websites designed around a thought provoking theme. This year the contest had participants from Afghanistan, Canada, India, Russia, Taiwan, Turkey and the USA. Their efforts were judged for content, presentation, collaboration, and a helping focus. The helping focus encourages students to “give back to others” as they demonstrate achievement of a helpful objective such as personal, social, and/or environmental responsibility or support for a worthy cause.

JoAnn Patrick-Ezzell, the Chairman and one of the co-founders of the Give Something Back International Foundation said, “This year the students explored very important and impactful subjects and displayed significant creativity in bringing these topics to life. Their cross-cultural collaboration with one another was very impressive and their talented teachers provided exceptional mentoring and coaching to support the learning process!”

Diverse subjects ranged from topics such as global climate change and protecting our oceans to health and wellness, justice for all, and celebrations and festivals. The sites from the participating teams show the kind of learning that can come from putting hundreds of students from different countries together in a collaborative endeavor.

This year’s Grand Prize winner for the primary school category is the website “Global Warming”. The website was created and built by students from the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School from Oak Park, Illinois and the St. Mark’s

Senior Secondary Public School in Janakpuri, New Delhi, India. The website creatively explores the challenges of global climate change and importantly what the students have done and what we can do to be effective stewards of the environment.

The Second Place winner in the primary school category is “Ocean Protection Starts with You and Me”. Winning schools were Toano Middle School, Williamsburg, Virginia; Hai Dong Primary School, Tainan, Taiwan; and Bayou View Elementary School, Gulfport, Mississippi.

There was a tie for third place in the primary category. The website “The Next Generation” was created by St. Clare School, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Darbari Lal DAV Model School, Pitampura, Delhi, India; and, Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, India.

Third place was also awarded to the website “Festivals and Celebrations”. Students from St. Mark’s Senior Secondary Public School , Meera Bagh, New Delhi, India; Tajrobawi Girls High School in Herat, Afghanistan; and John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School in Aurora, Illinois collaborated on this uplifting site.

This year’s Grand Prize winner for the secondary school category is a website called “Health and Wellness”. The winning schools are Lake Central High School from St. John, Indiana and St. Mark’s Senior Secondary Public School, Meera Bagh, New Delhi, India. This highly engaging information rich website provides substantial information and delivers it in a manner that is both entertaining and very instructive.

The Second Place winner for the secondary school category is the website “Come and Visit my Town”. The website was designed by students from Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi, India; Gymnasium No 32, Kugran, Russia; and St. Mark’s Senior Secondary Public School; New Delhi, India.

In Third place of the secondary school category is the “Justice Matters!” website designed by students from Bahcesehir College Atasehir, Istanbul, Turkey and the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya from Jhajjar, India.

Certificates of Participation are awarded to all students. Certificates are also presented to the schools to the winning teams. The Grand Prize primary and secondary teams receive \$1000. A GSBI scholarship/sponsorship to a needy, disadvantaged student will be given on behalf of each school on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place primary and secondary teams.

Special Merit awards are also presented for exceptional academic merit, for significant helping focus accomplishments, for creativity, for collaboration, and for the innovative use of multimedia. All Merit award winners receive certificates and software from Tech4Learning.com

This year, we are very pleased to have continued our Mini-GVC Program. It is a shorter 10-week collaboration. The goals of the GVC Mini are the same as with the yearlong GVC program with a more compressed work period. Information about both programs are available on www.virtualclassroom.org

The International website contest is made possible by the Give Something Back International (GSBI) Foundation, a nonprofit educational foundation headquartered in Sarasota, Florida. The Foundation's mission is to provide life changing, quality educational opportunities to children, young adults, and teachers around the world.

"The GVC Programs are focused on empowering, enabling and connecting students around the world using innovative applications and technology," said their President Andrew Ezzell. "The Foundation also provides scholarships to needy and disadvantaged children as well as builds schools and libraries around the world. Congratulations to all the participants in this year's GVC Program!" More information can be found on www.gsbi.org

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