



News

PINELLAS EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2010 WALKER'S RISING STARS WINNERS

May 27, 2010 -- Largo, FL – The Pinellas Education Foundation announced this evening, at a live performing and visual arts competition, the winners of scholarships totaling \$65,000. The competition was held at the Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater with nearly 2,000 fans, parents, classmates and teachers in attendance.

The winner of a \$5,000 scholarship for the first place finish in the Video Arts category, a new award category introduced in this year's competition, was **Collin Bernard** a member of the Junior Class at East Lake High & **Nile Madley** a member of the Junior Class at Countryside High School who partnered on producing a music video titled "Respect."

The winner of a \$7,000 scholarship for the first place finish in the Dance category, was **Eva Richardson** a junior and a dance major at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Gibbs High School who performed "Ghost Chacone" choreographed by Edwina Nelson to the *Concerto for Harpsichord No. 5* in F minor by Bach.

The winner of a \$7,000 scholarship for first place finish in Drama was **Jacob Stewart**, a senior Musical Theatre Major at PCCA who captured the hearts of his audience with a monolog from *Children of a Lesser God*.

The winner of a \$7,000 scholarship for first place in the Instrumental competition was **Joseph Velez**, a junior and a current member of the Leadership Conservatory for the Arts at Tarpon Springs High School. Joseph performed who performed *Solo de Concours* by Andre Messager on clarinet and was accompanied by Josh Quinn.

Camille Clark a senior at PCCA who prefers working in water colors and ink collected the \$7,000 first place scholarship in the Visual Arts competition.

Hannah Zazzaro a senior at Countryside High sang *Glitter & Be Gay* from the musical *Candide* to win her \$7,000 first place scholarship in the Vocalist category.

Alexa Bouchard, who garnered the greatest number of viral fans through the Pinellas Education Foundation web site for her vocal talents, won a MacBook that she will use this fall when she attends a university or conservatory program for musical theater and vocal performance.

Over 200 juniors and seniors from Pinellas County's Public Schools applied to compete in the seven-month process of auditions and adjudication.

Walker's Rising Stars was founded in 2003 by Bonati Institute neurosurgeon and Pinellas Education Foundation board member, Dr. Jeffrey Walker. Details on the Walker's Rising Stars program including artist statements and profiles for each finalist in the competition are available at **www.pinellaseducation.org**.

Presenting sponsors for the event are Kane's Furniture and Bright House Networks. The Pinellas Education Foundation is an independent, non-governmental not for profit organization whose mission is to enhance and improve education in Pinellas County Schools.

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