

Contact: Amanda Martin
Deputy Director of Administration and Communications
260. 422. 6467
martin@fwmoa.org

Another record-setting year for 2014 Scholastic Art and Writing Students
51 National Awards given to regional students, placing this region fourth in the nation
Peru High School teacher awarded Educator of the Year by FWMoA

March 26, 2014 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art and the many dedicated art and writing teachers from 52 Counties around Northern Ohio and Northwest Ohio have done it again.

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art's Award Winning Scholastic Art and Writing Program has been awarded a record-setting 51 National Medals a year after FWMoA was recognized on stage at Carnegie Hall with the Gold Key for Excellence in the Field in 2013. The 51 prestigious awards ranks the Museum as the fourth most decorated Scholastic region out of 115 nationwide. The only regions to best Fort Wayne this year were the City of New York, the entire state of Massachusetts, and northern Oregon including Portland.

This is the seventh consecutive year FWMoA has been ranked in the top-10 for national awards given to its regional Scholastic participants. This success comes from dedicated staff and administration, a supportive Board, financial support from the Fort Wayne Art League and other sponsors, and a region of committed teachers and talented students. Since 2003, The Fort Wayne Museum of Art has been focused on providing opportunities for our area students by providing outreach services and enrichment opportunities through an afterschool Art Club, and Award Ceremony with over 2100 in attendance annually.

“The number one reason our students and museum are so successful with this program is the sweat equity we and the participating teachers have put into this competition. Despite an unprecedented amount of snow, cancelled school, a only 3 solid days to upload nearly 4300 pieces of art and writing for judging, we broke through last year's record. We're all so very proud of that,” said Max Meyer, FWMoA's director of children's education.

In honor of FWMoA's 10th year as Regional Administrator for the Scholastic Program, the Museum has selected Mike Applegate as its most outstanding Educator of the Region for 2014. His dedication and 'no-nonsense' efforts have, year after year, nurtured student talent. Mr. Applegate's art program at Peru High School in Peru, Indiana is a regular winner of Regional and National Scholastic Awards. Peru High School Student Kaylee Anderson, National Gold Medalist, joins this elite group of Applegate's nationally winning students who will have their work exhibited the Parson's University, in NYC.

Mike Applegate has also been one of the longest and most trusted serving members of the FWMoA Scholastic Advisory Board and has witnessed first-hand the impact of the museum investment in the Program. In 2004 FWMoA Scholastic students won only 6 National Medals. In 2013, FWMoA was awarded the Gold Key of Excellence in the Field from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, and for that, the Museum has teachers like Applegate to thank. “That advancement is due to the museum leadership and investment, however, it is also due the talents and dedication of teachers like Mike Applegate. Peru High School is incredibly lucky to have him.” said Max Meyer, FWMoA director of children's education, and Scholastic Regional Director.

Additional Statistics:

-Over \$1 Million in College Scholarships have been offered to our students each of the past 7 years.

-Over 250,000 entries were received nationwide in 2014. 20,000-30,000 are sent to the -National Scholastic office in NYC for National Adjudication.

-This year FWMoA sent 294 entries in Art and 265 in Writing to Nationals, which garnered 27 National Art Medals and 24 National Writing Medals.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northern Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American and related art. FWMoA is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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