

Excellence in Education

Excellence in Education awards are being presented to outstanding high school seniors and education programs in Oakland County. The Oakland Press and Oakland Schools are the sponsors.

Awards are presented to the top five nominees in two categories: Outstanding High School Senior and Innovative K-12 Program.

Of the five student nominees selected for these honors, the top high school senior receives a \$500 scholarship and commemorative medallion. The next two students each receive \$300 and a plaque and the final two each receive \$200 and a plaque.

Student winners this year were: Leanne Wende, first; Michael Lively, second; Kate Merchant, third; Rohit Kapur, fourth; and Jaclyn Tolchin, fifth.

The overall winning program receives a donation of \$1,000 to its school. The next two programs receive donations of \$500 and the remaining two each receive \$200. All program winners each receive a plaque to display at their schools.

Program winners were: Integrated Art, Eagle Creek Elementary, Rochester Community School District, first; Senior Project, Franklin Road Christian School, second; Academic and Character Education Program, Waterford, third; Clarkston High School Leadership Education and Development Program (LEAD), Clarkston, tied for fourth; and Structured Study for Success, Notre Dame Preparatory, Pontiac, tied for fourth.

Excellence in Education is in its 18th year. Oakland Schools has been a partner for the last two years. All of the nominees are profiled in today's special section.

TOP PROGRAM Integrated Art

Students recreate lessons through artistic projects

School: Eagle Creek Academy, Oakland Twp.

The program: This class for kindergarten through eighth grade students coordinates the same lesson plan for social studies and art classes. In this way, students learn about the same culture in both classes, thus reinforcing the lesson.

How it's unique: The program has helped students learn about and accept diversity. Students also are performing better on social studies tests, speeches and essays because the students are actively participating in the lesson in a hands-on manner. The program did not cost the school any more than a traditional art program.

