



Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc.
Contact: Dr. Luz P. Lono

Press Release

Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will celebrate the 21th Anniversary of the Annual Essay Contest Awards Ceremony on May 24th, 2008.

The mission of Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. is to foster, promote and preserve the Hispanic heritage and culture in the Tampa Bay area.

Tampa, FL, May 15th, 2008: Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. will hold its 21th Annual Essay Contest Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 24th, 2008. The Essay Contest celebrates the achievements in writing by middle and high school students of Hillsborough County. Tampa Hispanic Heritage, Inc. has sponsored the Essay Contest for the past 21 years in order to heighten the awareness of the Hispanic culture and its many contributions to our community, state and country. The Awards Brunch will be held at the Columbia Restaurant located in Ybor City at 9:30 AM. This year's essay theme is **"The Impact of Hispanics in Politics."** The 2008 Essay Contest winners are:

Category 1: Grades 6-8 English

- 1st Place: Carolina Beltran** – 7th grade
Davidsen Middle School
Teacher: Erica Glatt
- 2nd Place: Taylor Brown** – 6th grade
Eisenhower Middle School
Teacher: Catherine Bradshaw
- 3rd Place: Myla Cellario-Pinto** – 6th grade
Martinez Middle School
Teacher: Tracy Collins

Category 2: Grades 6-8 Spanish

- 1st Place: Susell Rosales** – 8th grade
Franklin Middle School
Teacher: Elena Sutphin
- 2nd Place: Agape Atencio** – 7th grade
Davidsen Middle School
Teacher: Luz M. Legrá
- 3rd Place: Maria Cordoba** – 8th grade
Plant City High School
Teacher: Luz M. Legrá

Category 3: Grades 9-12 English

- 1st Place: Francisco Diaz** – 11th grade
Wharton High School
Teacher: Merrill Connor
- 2nd Place: Kathleen Hencke** – 11th grade
Plant City High School
Teacher: Mercedes C. Soto
- 3rd Place: Travis Jones** – 10th grade
Tampa Bay Technical High School
Teacher: Gary Padgett

Category 4: Grades 9-12 Spanish

- 1st Place: Elliot Joshua Stein** – 11th grade
Berkeley Preparatory School
Teacher: Luz Marina Engel-Peñaloza
- 2nd Place: German Ruiz** – 10th grade
Tampa Bay Technical School
Teacher: Gary Padgett
- 3rd Place: Lizeth Salazar** – 12th Grade
Plant City High School
Teacher: Mercedes C. Soto

The cost of the Brunch is \$20.00 per person. For more information, please contact Dr. Luz P. Lono, 2008 THHI Essay Contest Chair, at (813) 253-7744. Please, visit us at www.tampahispanic.org

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