



NEWS

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The Ninth Annual ‘Voices of Compton’ Literary Journal Explores Globalization through the Creative Lens of El Camino College Compton Center Students

This year’s edition of *Voices of Compton* focuses on themes of globalization. Each spring El Camino College Compton Center art and English students compete to have their literary and artistic works published in the fine arts journal. The ninth annual edition features 42 selections examining the conversion of different cultures both within our borders and beyond. The ECC Compton Center Humanities Division, Academic Affairs and Office of Student Life recognized 25 students for their exceptional creativity and engaging work with awards in seven categories.

Audrey Casas received first place for her spoken word poem entitled “Nueva Evolución.” Casas is a married mother of two sons who works full time as a secretary at the Lynwood Unified School District. Her award-winning piece reflects Casas’ strong work ethic as well as the value she places on the roles of family, community and education in society. In her poem she writes, “Help children and build them up/ No putting them down or beating them up/ Every day tell them they’re special – Each one, Reach One/ Show them to be confident, teach them to love and have fun.”

Casas plans to turn her passion for children and education into a career. She has been accepted to the University of California, Irvine, where she will major in English. Her future goal is to become a secondary teacher in alternative education, then to obtain a master’s degree and eventually move into educational administration.

“The *Voices of Compton* publication and competition gives the ECC Compton Center community a forum to voice our concerns and frustrations while showcasing our pride and talents,” said Casas. “To win first place was surreal as I already felt a strong sense of accomplishment from sharing my poetry and writing with this incredibly supportive college community,” says Casas. The competition also empowered Casas to find her voice on stage as a spoken-word and freestyle artist.

Below is a list of the student awards by category:

Essays:

Khiree Johns - *1st prize Essay*, “The Valiant Leader”

Fabian Zavala - *2nd prize Essay*, “Power and Responsibility”

Jordan Hixon - *3rd prize Essay*, “America: A Modern-Day Genocide”

Ryan Buchanan - *Honorable Mention Essay*, “Black Culture and the Alcohol Industry”

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Education Essays:

Alberto Hernandez - *1st prize Education Essay*, “The Missing Chapter”

Lizelle Garcia - *2nd prize Education Essay*, “The Human Computer”

Oscar Flores - *3rd prize Education Essay*, “Back to Basics”

Alexus Moore - *Honorable Mention Education Essay*, “Effects of Education for Minorities”

Paintings:

Sergio Cisneros - *Cover Artwork Prize*, “Pattern”

Jordan Pace - *1st prize Painting*, “Personal Growth”

Stephanie Gonzalez - *2nd prize Painting* “Baile Folklorico”

Stephanie Lomeli - *2nd prize Painting*, “Still Life”

Rosa Hurtado - *3rd prize Painting*, “Painting Inspired by Munch”

Sketches:

Alejandro Flores - *1st prize Sketch*, “Michelangelo Portrait”

Bella Abrego - *2nd prize Sketch*, “Sketch Inspired by Michelangelo’s Creation”

Ruben Jaimes - *3rd prize Sketch*, “Eye Study Sketch”

Karla Jara - *3rd prize Sketch*, “Eye Study Sketch”

Adrienne Webb - *3rd prize Sketch*, “Eye Study Sketch”

Short Story:

Paige Wolf [Pseudonym] –*Short Story Award*, “America: Land of the Poor, Home of the Homeless”

Spoken Word Art:

Audrey Casas - *1st prize Spoken Word Art*, “Nueva Evolucion”

Anthony Chuy - *2nd prize Spoken Word Art*, “The Boy”

Cheyenne Brown - *3rd prize Spoken Word Art*, “Compton”

Poetry:

Christian J. Lopes - *1st prize Poem*, “Ma Joulie”

Bertha Navarro - *2nd prize Poem*, “Life Essence”

Jose Salas - *3rd prize Poem*, “The Boy and the Mountain”

The 2016-17 edition of *Voices of Compton* can be read in its entirety at:

www.compton.edu/academics/div3/humanities/VOC2017.pdf

This year, the *Voices of Compton* is publishing a special 90th anniversary edition. Current students and alumni are encouraged to submit creative works that fit the above categories and reflect the college’s rich history for inclusion. For more information please contact Ruth Roach, ECC Compton Center English professor, at rroach@elcamino.edu.

About El Camino College Compton Center

El Camino College Compton Center is the community’s education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. El Camino College Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA 90221.