

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KQED Honors “Celebrate America Creative Writing”  
and “Coming to California” Contest Winners**

*Award Ceremonies on Wednesday, May 23 at 5:30 pm and Friday, May 25 at 6:30 pm*

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22, 2007 – KQED is proud to honor students from Northern California for their creative abilities, demonstrated through essays and digital stories, at awards ceremonies for the “Celebrate America Creative Writing” contest on Wednesday, May 23 at 5:30pm and the KQED Digital Storytellers’ “Coming to California” contest on and Friday, May 25 at 6:30pm at KQED.

The annual “Celebrate America Creative Writing” contest invites fifth grade students to write an essay about “Why I Am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants” to promote positive awareness of diversity. The contest is sponsored by the Northern California Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyer’s Association ([www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)), and their charitable arm, the American Immigration Law Foundation ([www.ailf.org](http://www.ailf.org)). AILA attorney volunteers visited participating classrooms throughout Northern California to facilitate discussions about immigration.

KQED is joining AILA and AILF in sponsoring the awards ceremony for the writing contest on Wednesday, May 23 at 5:30 pm. The 2007 “Celebrate America Creative Writing” contest winners are:

- **1st Place:** Charles Herndon, Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, San Francisco
- **2nd Place:** Sean Rizzo Cunningham, Bay Farm Elementary School, Alameda
- **3rd Place:** Jemeshia Wade, Sheridan Elementary School, San Francisco

Herndon’s essay placed third in the AILF national contest.

“We’re thrilled with the thoughtfulness and creativity displayed in this year’s contest,” said Brenda Boudreaux, AILA/AILF’s Writing Contest Co-Coordinator. “The entries, by fifth-grade students, demonstrate a depth of understanding about the complex issue of immigration that is striking.” She added that a special fundraising campaign by AILF resulted in more than \$5,000 that will be awarded to the schools attended by the winners.

KQED’s annual “Coming to California” contest invites high school students in the Bay Area to create a digital story about immigrating to the state and being Californian. Through KQED’s Digital Storytelling contest, students become producers of media, building an understanding of media literacy through authentic learning. The winning digital stories will be streamed at [www.kqed.org/dsi](http://www.kqed.org/dsi).

The 2007 KQED Digital Storytellers’ “Coming to California” contest winners are:

- **1st Place:** “The Journey” by Nico Schafgans, School of the Arts, San Francisco
- **2nd Place:** “Ora Starts a New Life” by Sapora, The Academy, San Francisco
- **3rd Place:** “My Hero” by Baldeep Rai, River Valley High, Yuba City
- **Honorable Mention:** “My Story” by Chris Ramirez, School of the Arts, San Francisco
- **Honorable Mention:** “East Palo Alto Flavor” by Julissa Russell, CollegeTrack, East Palo Alto
- **Outstanding Artistic Achievement:** “Immigration, Destination Opportunity” by Jessica Saavedra, Florin High School, Sacramento
- **Outstanding Artistic Achievement:** “My Story from Me to You” by Maria Sakoloff, School of the Arts, San Francisco
- **KQED Audience Favorite:** “Journey of Amanda Paz” by Anthony Cantun, The Academy, San Francisco

- **KQED Audience Favorite:** “A Story of My Father” by Tiffany Ng, The Academy, San Francisco

### **About KQED Immigration in Focus**

KQED’s Immigration in Focus ([www.kqed.org/immigrationinfocus](http://www.kqed.org/immigrationinfocus)) is a collection of thought-provoking programs, special reports and events about the complex issues surrounding immigration. With California at the center of the immigration debate, KQED recognizes the need for accurate, balanced information and provides a platform for productive and inclusive dialogue from all perspectives. Support for Immigration in Focus is generously provided by the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund ([www.haasjr.org](http://www.haasjr.org)).

### **About KQED**

KQED Public Broadcasting ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television 9, one of the nation's most-watched public television stations during primetime, is the producer of local and national series such as *Quest*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pepin: Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include KQED HD, KQED Encore, KQED World, KQED Life and KQED Kids, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of *Forum with Michael Krasny*, *Pacific Time*, and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento). KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

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