

**For Immediate Release**

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### **State Department Federal Credit Union Awards Students For Creative Projects**

Alexandria, VA, April 29, 2005: State Department Federal Credit Union hosts an Essay and Art Contest for elementary students of Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

The contest, held in conjunction with National Credit Union Youth Week, April 17-23, focused on the theme, "Want it ... Save it ... Get it!" The event focused on the importance of teaching young members to save and handle their finances responsibly.



Students were asked to write a one page essay on the topic "If I saved my money, I could..." and complete an illustration to support the theme. More than 40 students turned in an entry. Essay themes ranged from taking a family on vacation, to one winning entry that wanted to establish a memorial youth center in memory of a brother that was killed.

State Department Federal Credit Union Officials attended an Honors Assembly at Jefferson Houston Elementary School that included special recognition for students who entered the contest.

*A Student reads his essay at the assembly.  
L to R: Tori Hargrow, student; Dr. Marcia Baldanza, Principal; Ron Schneeberger, SDFCU Business Development Manger; Susan King, SDFCU Community Outreach Coordinator*

A prize of \$50 was given to the following students:

- Saja Ibrahim, Kindergarten
- Stephanie Mejia, First Grade
- Betina Harris, Second Grade
- Warren Smith, Third Grade
- Tori Hargrow, Fourth Grade
- Najee Surratt, Fifth Grade

Youth financial literacy outreach is an ongoing mission for State Department Federal Credit Union.

***State Department Federal Credit Union serves employees of the State Department worldwide as well as many Member Employee Groups in the Washington, DC area. SDFCU has assets exceeding \$798 million and over 63,000 members. See our website at [www.sdfcu.org](http://www.sdfcu.org) for more information.***

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