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## Winthrop Students Win Prizes in C-SPAN Video Documentary Competition

*During unprecedented times, students addressed issues of national importance*

**WASHINGTON (March 10, 2021)** – Today C-SPAN announced that students in Winthrop, Iowa, are winners in C-SPAN's national 2021 StudentCam competition. The following students from East Buchanan Community School have won prizes:

Trey Johnson, Tristan Lau and Cole Bowden will receive \$250 as honorable mention winners for the documentary, "Government Subsidies for Electric Vehicles."

Keira Hellenthal, Hannah McMurrin and Emma Kress will receive \$250 as honorable mention winners for the documentary, "Our Future Reality," about the environment and changing climate.

The competition, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, invited all middle and high school students to enter by producing a short documentary. C-SPAN, in cooperation with cable television partners, asked students to join the national conversation on the challenges our country is facing with the theme: "**Explore the issue you most want the president and new Congress to address in 2021.**"

Despite the unique challenges brought about by COVID-19 this year, more than 2,300 students across the country participated in the contest. C-SPAN received over 1,200 entries from 43 states and Washington, D.C. The most popular topics addressed were:

- Health Care (14.9%)
- Environmental and Energy Policy (14.6%)
- Equal Rights and Equity (13.5%)
- Criminal Justice/Policing (7.6%)
- Education (7.5%)

"With the continual shift in the educational landscape, it is difficult to overstate just how challenging the pandemic has proven for schools across our nation," said Craig McAndrew, Director, C-SPAN Education Relations. "We are so impressed by the resilience and ingenuity of this year's prize-winning students who have delivered among the finest short films in the history of the StudentCam competition."

C-SPAN is funded by America's cable television companies, who also support StudentCam. In Winthrop, C-SPAN is available locally through East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative which provides Skitter TV service throughout their service area.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with C-SPAN on their annual StudentCam competition," said Mike Becker, General Manager at East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative. "The caliber of work that these winning students produced is commendable and we offer our heartfelt congratulations."

These winners are among 299 students from across the country winning a total of \$100,000. C-SPAN is awarding one grand prize, 4 first prizes, 16 second prizes, 32 third prizes and 97 honorable mention prizes. These winning videos will receive cash awards of \$5,000, \$3,000, \$1,500, \$750 and \$250, respectively.

High school students competed on a regional level, with the United States divided into three regions: West, Central and East. Middle school students were judged on a national basis. The grand-prize winner was selected nationally among all regions and grade levels.

The 150 winning videos can be viewed at [www.studentcam.org](http://www.studentcam.org) and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN. To schedule an interview with one or more of the winning students, please contact Pam McGorry at [pmcgorry@c-span.org](mailto:pmcgorry@c-span.org).

The annual StudentCam competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

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**About C-SPAN Classroom:**

C-SPAN Classroom is the network's FREE membership service that works with C-SPAN's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, nonfiction books and American history to create free resources for teachers, students and the public to use in classrooms, projects or for research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Engage with [C-SPAN Classroom](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**About C-SPAN:**

C-SPAN, the public affairs network providing Americans with unfiltered access to congressional proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry and is now funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN programming. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, the C-SPAN Radio App, [C-SPAN.org](http://C-SPAN.org) and various social media platforms. C-SPAN's robust public affairs programming includes national and international public policy conversations; signature call-in programs, such as its popular morning show *Washington Journal*; book and author discussions on C-SPAN2's Book TV; a chronicle of America's past on C-SPAN3's American History TV; and more. The network's video-rich website contains over 265,000 hours of searchable and shareable content, archived since 1987 for educational and reporting purposes. Learn more about C-SPAN at [C-SPAN.org/about/faq/](http://C-SPAN.org/about/faq/). Engage with C-SPAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#), and stay connected through weekly and daily [newsletters](#).

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