



MINNESOTA NORTH STAR ACADEMY

Preparing students who communicate in ASL and English to become successful and valued world citizens

May 15, 2008

To: Members of Minnesota North Star Academy Community

RE: **Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest**

I am thrilled to announce that some of our students have received awards and recognition from participating in

“Yes, I Can!”
Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest
2008 Winners Announced

Students responded in record numbers to this year's Gallaudet National Essay, Art, and ASL Contest theme, “Yes, I Can!” This year marked the first time for separate entry categories for elementary and high school deaf and hard of hearing students. The final tally of 623 entries included: 247 essay entries, 257 art entries, and 119 American Sign Language (ASL) entries.

“This has been a real ‘can-do’ year for the contest,” said Timothy Worthylake, contest coordinator for the Clerc Center. “The students have definitely shown how they apply the ‘Yes, I Can!’ theme to their lives. The responses varied widely, with students writing, drawing, or signing about such ambitions as becoming an author, a global warming activist, a computer videogame designer, a counselor, a news director, a lawyer, a singer, an actor, and even president of the United States!”

Three North Star students; Shannon Boelter, Cecilia Hahnikoski, and Brienna Herold did well in the contest. Shannon, a senior, placed second nationally in American Sign Language category. Brienna, a sophomore, received Judge's Choice recognition in the writing category. Cecilia, a senior, received Judge's Choice recognition in American Sign Language category.

We extend our congratulations to these three students. This is an exciting time for MNSA!

Thank you,

Kimberly Kause
Executive Director

St. Paul Star Schools