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Better Business Bureau Announces Essay Contest Finalists

COLUMBUS, OHIO (March 14, 2013) – The Better Business Bureau Center for Character Ethics is proud to announce the 2013 finalists in its statewide *Laws of Life* Essay Contest, a unique character-themed writing competition for students in grades 6-12.

The statewide contest, in its thirteenth year, is open to winners of local *Laws of Life* essay contests for both middle and high school students. The contest encourages students to think about the people and experiences that have helped to shape their principles and challenges them to write about what they believe in. A panel of business leaders, educators and community volunteers judged the entries. Perseverance, compassion, honesty and appreciation are some of the topics this year's finalists wrote about in their essays.

Sir John Templeton, noted financier and philanthropist, created the Laws of Life Essay Contest in 1987 to challenge young people to reflect and write about their values. Today the contest is a true community-wide effort that promotes communication between students, teachers, parents and business members to advance universal ethical principles like forgiveness, honesty, respect and love. The BBB Center for Character Ethics adopted the contest to help young people develop positive ethics that will lead them into adulthood as our future workforce. Major support for the contest comes from Honda of America, Wendy's, the Walker family and the English Family Foundation. Local schools and community organizations can visit <http://lol.centerforcharacterethics.org/contests/ohio> for information and assistance in sponsoring a local contest.

Finalists, their parents, teachers and contest judges will attend the Awards Banquet on April 25, 2013 at the Villa Milano in Columbus where the winners will be announced. Franklin County Auditor Clarence Mingo will address the finalists and offer congratulations. Cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$500 will be awarded to finalists, their teachers and contest coordinators.

For more information about the program, please contact Lucy Frontera at lawsoflife@centerforcharacterethics.org, or 614-893-9971.

Schools with contest finalists (in alphabetical order)

Allen	Lima Central Catholic HS	(private)
Allen	Bath High School	Bath Local Schools
Allen	Apollo Career Center	Apollo Career Center
Auglaize	Wapakoneta High School	Wapakoneta City Schools
Auglaize	Waynesfield-Goshen High School	Waynesfield-Goshen Local Schools
Cuyahoga	Ohio Connections Academy High School	(charter)
Franklin	Columbus City Prep School for Girls	Columbus City Schools
Franklin	Dominion Middle	Columbus City Schools
Franklin	Genoa Middle School	Westerville City Schools
Franklin	Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow	(charter)
Greene	Ankeney Middle School	Beavercreek City Schools
Hamilton	Springer School & Center	(private)
Henry	Liberty Center Middle & High Schools	Liberty Center Local Schools
Lorain	Lorain County JVS	Lorain County JVS
Lucas	Springfield Middle School	Springfield Local Schools
Marion	Tri-Rivers Career Center	Tri-Rivers Career Center
Monroe	Beallsville High School	Switzerland of Ohio
Muskingum	Zanesville Middle School	Zanesville City Schools
Muskingum	West Muskingum Middle School	West Muskingum Schools
Pickaway	Teays Valley High School	Teays Valley Local Schools
Pickaway	Westfall High School	Westfall Local Schools
Portage	Stanton Middle School	Kent City School District
Putnam	Miller City-New Cleveland Middle School	Miller City-New Cleveland Schools
Summit	Green Middle & High Schools	Green Local Schools
Trumbull	Brookfield Middle School	Brookfield Local Schools