FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- Please use as a template to include as much or as little of the specifics as you would like for your local PR. (Newspapers, District Newsletters, School Websites, etc.)

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AEM Youth Art Month Student Exhibition 2019
Celebrate Youth Art Month: Your Art, Your Story

The AEM Youth Art Month Student Exhibition will begin on February 25th at the Minnesota State Capitol in the North Corridor and will conclude with a Closing Reception Recognition and Awards in the Rotunda from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm on March 9th, 2019. Guest Speaker for the event will be the newly appointed Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker, who will read the Youth Art Month Proclamation and address the students, families and teachers in attendance. The students and their artwork will be celebrated and recognized for their achievements during the 2019 Capitol Art Exhibition and Closing Reception. State Capitol Hours to view: Monday-Friday- 8:30-5:00; Saturday – 10:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sunday - 1:00 - 4:00 pm. The public is invited to attend the viewing of a collection of student artwork and winning flag designs from around the state.

The flag competition is a long standing tradition of the Art Educators of Minnesota in collaboration with the Council for Art Education and the National Art Educators Association to recognize and promote the achievements of students through their outstanding work in Visual Arts in Minnesota. Each year, art educators from around the state send entries of flag designs to the Art Educators of Minnesota Board.

Congratulations to the local students from (school & community), who will be receiving recognition awards for (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place, honorable mention) for the Youth Art Month Flag design Competition for the (elementary, middle, or high school) level. The Students’ flag designs will be used in publications to support Youth Art Month throughout the state of Minnesota. This year the first place winning designs will be used for the following: High School Level-the actual flag to represent Minnesota at the National Art Educators Convention in Boston; Middle Level-the flag design for the postcard; Elementary Level-the flag design for the poster. All Flag Design Winners will be announced and recognized at the State Capitol Show. The First Place winners at each level are invited to read their essays: ‘What Art Means to Me’ at the Closing Reception on March 9th.

AEM Website link for flag winners: http://www.aem-mn.org/advocacy/showcasing-the-arts/youth-art-month/

Each year AEM members from around the state are also able to submit two to four student works of art. Congratulations to the following students’ and their artwork chosen for the exhibition: Names and grade level and school if multiple schools in district. The artwork is juried and there is a prize program for each level-elementary, middle and high school. (judging takes place at the time of installation so the prize winners will be announced and recognized at the time of the Exhibition and Closing Reception.)

Congratulations to the students receiving special awards from Sargent Art or Triarco for their art work: include name, level and award. (The Prize Structure for 2019 is as follows:}
Best in show student receives a $1,000 Check from Sargent Art. Best in show teacher receives classroom art supplies worth $1,500.  
1st place Elementary, Middle Level, and High School students receive $100 worth of art supplies from Sargent Art. 1st place Elementary, Middle Level, and High School teachers receive $300 worth of art supplies from Sargent Art.  
2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention Students from Elementary, Middle Level, and High school will receive an art supply prize from Triarco Arts and Crafts.)

AEM Future Art Educator Spotlight Award recipients will also receive recognition at the exhibition-closing reception and awards. These students were nominated by their art teachers as students they believe would be potential Visual Arts Educators. Students then apply and write an essay-“How the Visual Arts Have Contributed to My Life.” Applications, credentials and essays are then judged by past or present AEM board members (not connected to the current submissions). This year the senior was chosen in the fall and received complementary registration for the AEM Fall Conference. Receiving 1st place Award: Katelyn Karrow of Anoka High School, Instructor Kevan Nitzberg. Katelyn will receive a Triarco Gift Card-200.00, display her artwork and read her essay: “How the Visual Arts have Contributed to My Life.” A new honor added this year is to send the 1st Place Spotlight Award Art on to the NAEA Convention in Boston. 2nd Place: Claire Fredrickson, St. Michael-Albertville High School, Instructor: Kari Halker-Saathoff (Triarco Gift Card-100.00) 3rd Place: Karley Graves, Anoka High School - Instructor Kevan Nitzberg (Triarco Gift Card-75.00) 4th place: Allyse Rhode (Triarco Gift Card-50.00-) All of the students receiving awards will have the opportunity to display their work and read their essays.

The public is invited. The 2019 Capitol Art Show runs from Monday, February 25th through Saturday, March 9th. The artwork will start in the North Corridor and be moved to the rotunda for the Closing Reception. The Closing Reception, Recognition and Awards will be on Saturday, March 9th from 12-2 pm in the Capitol Rotunda with refreshments in the Vault.

If you need further information about the AEM Youth Art Month Capitol Art Show feel free to contact Laura Anton or Shanda Landes, Youth Art Month Co-Chairs via email at youthartmonth@gmail.com