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Jordan Mosinskis of Palisades High School Wins PNA Foundation, AT&T Stop Cyber Bullying Essay Contest

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 19, 2020 – Jordan Mosinskis, a ninth grader at Palisades High School, Kintnersville is the 2020 winner of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation’s inaugural “Stop Cyber Bullying” writing contest.

Mosinskis receives a \$500 cash prize to be mailed following the cancellation of the PNA Foundation’s Keystone Media Awards luncheon, previously scheduled for April 8, at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, in Harrisburg, Pa.

Beginning in 2020, the PNA Foundation, along with PNA and PNA member newspapers, partnered with AT&T to host a statewide “Stop Cyber Bullying” editorial writing contest to raise awareness about the dangers of cyberbullying. High school students were asked to write a column or editorial that best explained, “Why cyberbullying is dangerous and should not be tolerated.”

Beginning last fall, PNA members hosted local contests and encouraged high school students to “write a wrong” through their words. A winner was recognized in each community and entered in the statewide contest, which drew more than 30 entries from across the state.

In selecting Mosinskis as the Pennsylvania winner, judges commented, “Jordan’s entry was so simple, yet so impactful. She helped readers to visualize the pain of cyber bullying and how words can really hurt...not only the victim but those who may lose someone. We especially appreciated her plea for victims to speak out.”

Additional students were recognized with second and third place awards. Alexander Mohler, of Middle West High School, Middleburg, receives second place honors, while Johnson Yang, an Emmaus High School junior, places third. Mohler was also recognized by The Daily Item, Sunbury. Mohler and Yang will receive cash awards of \$250 and \$150, respectively.

According to DoSomething.org, about 37 percent of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have been bullied online and 30 percent have had it happen more than once. 95 percent of teens in the U.S. are online with a mobile device, making it the most common medium for cyberbullying.

Recognizing that online safety is needed for all, this writing contest encouraged positive change. Social media can be productive and helpful. But, words must be chosen wisely and with respect and compassion.

About PNA Foundation:

The PNA Foundation is an independent, non-profit corporation organized as a public foundation. Its mission is to provide training and resources to PNA members, to develop the next generation of readers and journalists, and to educate the public on the importance of the First Amendment and the role of a free press.

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About PNA: The PNA, founded in 1925, is the nonprofit trade association for print and digital news media in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Its mission is to advance the business interests of Pennsylvania news media organizations and to promote a free and independent press. It has more than 300 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

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