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CONTACT:

Melinda Condon

Email: melindac@pa-news.org

Phone: (717) 703-3002

Mattea McIntyre of Greater Latrobe High School Wins PNA Foundation, AT&T Stop Cyber Bullying Essay Contest

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 31, 2022 – Mattea McIntyre, a sophomore at Greater Latrobe High School, is the 2022 winner of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation’s “Stop Cyber Bullying” writing contest.

McIntyre receives a \$500 cash prize and certificate to be mailed in April. The annual Student Keystone Media Awards luncheon where Stop Cyber Bullying winners are celebrated – along with other high school and college journalists – is not being held this year due to pandemic uncertainty.

Starting 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 or produce a video 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 dozens of entries from across the state.

In selecting McIntyre as the Pennsylvania winner, judges commented, “Mattea’s video was poignantly simple and impactful. Using stark black and white statistics and photo angles, Mattea produced an effective message. We especially appreciated how the video ended with helpful solutions and resources. Great job!”

Additional students were recognized with second and third place awards. Emily Myers, a junior at Neshaminy High School, Langhorne, receives second place honors, while Zaine Eback, a Saegertown Junior Senior High School sophomore, places third. Myers and Eback will receive cash awards of \$250 and \$150, respectively.

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 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.

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

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300 newspaper and media-related members, including daily, weekly, and college newspapers and online publications.

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