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Carroll Co. Students Win Writing Competition

Two students in this area won cash prizes in the annual Utrust Make a Difference Writing Competition. Utrust Administrator, Dr. Dan Tollett, and Kristi Coleman, Utrust Director of Finance and Administration presented the awards on Thursday, December 13 to Huntington High School student Samuel Cole and South Carroll School student Dana Bombe. Both students won \$100 for their entries.



The writing contest was designed as a part of the Employees Appreciation Program. Both students and adults were encouraged to submit stories about the school system employee who has made a difference in their life.

Samuel submitted an essay about band director Mr. Cook, who he credits with changing his life through music. Samuel wrote “Mr. Cook always had my back” and “taught me that money can’t stop you from treating people on this earth with respect and kindness.” He said “Most of all he taught me to never give up and always try.” It was because of a band director going beyond the simple and easy that Samuel was able to be a part of the band and learn all the wonderful lessons he did through his experiences.

Dana’s essay describes history teacher Jeannine Stokes and expresses appreciation for the encouragement she received. Dana wrote “Mrs. Stokes changed how I behaved and changed

the path of my future." She credits Stokes with always pushing her to do better and do her best. She ended her essay by describing Stokes as "an amazing woman, teacher and friend" as she confirms the positive influence on her by this wonderful teacher.

Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes to winners across the state for entries like these about school employees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of students.

"Many school employees across this state go above and beyond what is required of them every day," said Dr. Tollett. "We want their stories to be written and celebrated. We ask every person who submits an essay to share it with the person about whom it is written. It makes a big difference in staff morale. It also makes a difference in students' lives when they learn to recognize and express appreciation to others. We want to see students develop and display an attitude of gratitude," he continued.

Utrust is a statewide organization that assists local school boards, administrators and students to recognize and appreciate school employees. Utrust sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program that includes celebrations throughout each school year to honor school employee groups. Utrust awarded 18 cash prizes ranging from \$1000 to \$100 to winners of the writing competition across the state.

These special stories will be permanently added to the Utrust Make A Difference Library.

Visit www.tnuct.com for more information or to read the essays.

