



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Crockett Student Wins Big in Writing Competition

William Futrell a student at Crockett County High School was recently awarded

with second place in the West division of 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. Futrell received a check in the amount of \$250 for his entry.

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.

William's story honors high school calculus teacher, Musa Manneh. He writes about how Manneh was an inspiration to him on many levels. First William wrote "he inspired me to dig deeper in each subject, be a better student, to try new things, and to always get back up after a failure." He also mentions being inspired by Manneh's personal story of living out his dream of playing soccer and getting his degree in math here in the U.S.A. Hearing about how Manneh achieved his dreams all the way from Gambia inspired William to "never limit himself" and "to live out his dreams." He feels that he "has been truly blessed to meet this teacher and hopes to make him proud in the future."

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](http://www.tnuct.com) for more information or to read the essays.