**First Annual Fred Ross Student Journalism
Competition Winners Announced by the National Scholastic Press Association and the Foundation for Systemic Change

*The 2023 Fred Ross competition launches today; High school journalists covering of systemic change in their communities encouraged to participate***

**BOSTON, MA:** The National Scholastic Press Association and Foundation for Systemic Change are pleased to announce the winners of the first annual Fred Ross Student Journalism Competition. Named for Fred Ross, the renowned advocate and organizer who trained and mentored leaders such as Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta to become iconic grassroots organizers, the competition is for high school journalists whose work includes reporting on tangible, systemic strategies being employed in their communities to fully address today’s seemingly intractable challenges- whether climate change, violence and hate, polarization, LGBTQ+ issues, threatened democracy and other complex issues.

Submissions came from high school students across the country and covered topics such as union negotiations, local food insecurity, antisemitism, environmental justice and much more through mediums such as traditional print, websites, documentaries and short-form videos. This year’s winners are:

**FIRST PLACE:**

Abraham John Naser (Lick-Wilmerding High School)

**SECOND PLACE:**

Kara Kim and Elaine Jiang (Carlmont High School)

**THIRD PLACE:**

MacKenzie Bunn (Loudoun Valley High School)

**FOURTH PLACE:**

Chloe Sow (The Downtown School)

**FIFTH PLACE:**

Ella De Young and Marie Stier (Iowa City West High School)

**HONORABLE MENTIONS:**

Carly Philpott, Peter Philpott, Izzy Kraus and Quinn Rudnick (Cherry Creek High School), Jonah McMillen, Sydney Moore, Debby Oluwole, John Wallace Teller and Sarah Wright (Christ Presbyterian Academy), Lauren Chuu and Krish Dev (Monta Vista High School), Elizabeth Hu and Lucy Walker (St. John's School)

In its inaugural year, 125 entries from high school students across the country included topics such as union negotiation, food insecurity, environmental justice and more. To read this year’s finalists’ reporting, visit [NSPA’s website](https://studentpress.org/nspa/). The 2022 student finalists were recognized at Saturday’s Individual Awards ceremony in Boston.

1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners are awarded cash prizes $1,000, $500 and $200 respectively and featured at the NSPA Annual Conference and in NSPA publications, website, social media and also on the FSC website.

To bolster the reporting competition, the Foundation offers online workshops and industry-recognized advisers for student journalists who consider participating.

The 2023 competition launches today, with entries to be submitted by June 2024, in conjunction with NSPA’s Individual Awards competition. Winners will be announced at the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention, Nov. 7-10, 2024, in Philadelphia. Sign-up for mentorship opportunities and submit reporting on the Foundation for Systemic Change website [here.](https://www.foundationforsystemicchange.org/journalism-competition)

Learn more about the Competition and Fred Ross on the Foundation for Systemic Change [website](https://www.foundationforsystemicchange.org/).

##

**About the Foundation for Systemic Change**

*The Foundation of Systemic Change is a family foundation deeply embedded in human rights, social justice, and humanitarian efforts. The organization offers dynamic grant funding to drive creative projects – documentaries, podcasts, articles, theater, and more —spotlighting persistent global disparities and the need for comprehensive solutions to entrenched challenges. Their mission is to foster widespread comprehension of pressing global issues, empowering collaborative actions that bring about enduring, systemic transformations. FSC's co-founder, John Heffernan, draws from his decades-long experience to emphasize that sustainable impact stems from addressing root causes through systemic change.*

**About the National Scholastic Press Association**

*NSPA, the nation’s largest association of scholastic media, provides training and recognition of achievement to high school and middle school journalists. It serves hundreds of students and their advisers with two national conventions each year. NSPA’s renowned Pacemakers honor the top scholastic newspapers, yearbooks, magazines, websites and broadcasts, and its individual awards celebrate student work through dozens of specific categories.*