

## Winners of the 2015 McGraw Hill Poster Contest



Above Left to Right: Cassia Rose, Isaac Burris, Steven Vaught, Kayleah Cumpian, Dr. Andrew Yox.

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual McGraw-Hill Poster contest came with some surprises, a major announcement, and a not too unlikely first-place winner on 24 April at the Whatley Foyer of Northeast Texas Community College. This has been an annual test of creative scholarship in Northeast Texas, funded in part by the McGraw-Hill Corporation, and judged by friends of the college, and Honors Northeast.

In first place, winning \$400 as well as a \$175 McGraw-Hill Certificate was Kayleah Cumpian, NTCC's multi-award winning Presidential Scholar. She featured work performed last summer on an REU fellowship on Methanobactin peptides--a potential therapeutic for the treatment of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. The ceremony after the contest provided a supportive and appreciative audience for the announcement that Cumpian had just won a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship as well.



In second place came Steven Vaught who had just begun the spring semester of 2015 in the honors Stat-Psych Seminar of NTCC. Vaught's spirited presentation on the relation between quantitative reasoning and musical aptitude came as a rushed one-hour break from his three-hour class Friday-morning seminar in

engineering. His rise from a seemingly average entering NTCC student to a top scholar has been documented by several interested professors at the college. Vaught won \$300.



Above Judge Judy Hamilton and Steven Vaught

Isaac Burris' Caldwell-Award winning work on the “western weakness” of slavery in pre-Civil-War Texas ranked third in the contest and netted him \$200. Burris' study of the relation between Texas leader, Sam Houston, and his slave, Jeff Hamilton, allowed him to document the possibility of a “Vangarian Guard Option” for African-Americans in early Texas.



Isaac Burris with Judge Judy Hamilton, Above.

Freshman Presidential Scholar, Cassia Rose, took Fourth Place, and \$100. Her work on “Legendary Housewives,” presented recently on South Padre Island at the Great Plains Honors Council, examined the possibilities of fame for plantation housewives in early Texas. By contrast to Lizzie Neblett's 1863 quote, “fame can never be mine,” Rose showed how several matrons attained legendary status.



Above: Cassia Rose, and Judge, Pete Hairston

The annual contest is indebted to friends of the college who have helped to vindicate the achievements of NTCC scholars, increasing their chances in other regional and national award competitions. This year, the following community supporters judged the contest: Frank Adams, Suzanne Boatner, Glenda Broigoitti, Wanda Cockrill, Andrea Cruz, Edward Florey, Pete Hairston, Judy Hamilton, Greg Holt, Jerald and Mary Lou Mowery, Julio Rios, and Dr. Jerry Wesson.

Professor Joy Cooper, representing an established, formative NTCC's Honors Committee, oversaw the scoring, and tabulated the results. The contest was also indebted to the work of Learning Technology Representative, Austin Hatzinger, who has maintained McGraw-Hill's support for the competition

The following other NTCC scholars also presented original works of research in the contest: Morgan Capps, Elyse Coleman, Zachary Davis, Angelica Fuentes, Chris Hall, Louis Hall, Kelli Knepp, Ana Martinez, Miranda Mendoza, Gabriela Quezada, Tyler Reynolds, Jessica Velazquez, and Hector Zuniga. Several judges commented that all of the presenters were articulate, and interesting. Honors Director, Andrew Yox noted that this year's presenters on the whole were some of the most decorated, and conference-seasoned scholars to assemble in the contest's history.