



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 24, 2019

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Media Contact:

Kristin Rodine
Public Information Officer
208-332-6807
krodine@sde.idaho.gov

SDE announces student winners of Investing in My Future contest

(BOISE) – Young Idaho artists with big dreams for the future got a shoutout from Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra Thursday during her budget presentation to the Legislature’s Joint Finance-Appropriations committee.

“Nearly every entry in the contest we hold each year reflects the hope, optimism, ambition and aspirations of our students’ futures,” Superintendent Ybarra told lawmakers. “And based on the artwork I received, their future certainly looks bright.”

Students’ voices are essential to shaping the policies and programs of Idaho’s public schools, and one way the State Department of Education taps into students’ ideas is through an annual art contest asking students in grades 7 through 12 to visualize their futures, Superintendent Ybarra said.

The latest “Investing in My Future” art contest drew nearly 100 entries. The top two winners, both from Malad High School, portray two different types of high-flying dreams. First-place winner Rebekah Smith, a Malad 10th grader, pictured herself in the Oval Office, while 11th grader Emilee Martin took second place with her portrayal of an astronaut floating in space.

Taiva Titsworth, a Middleton High School 11th grader, won third place with a portrait featuring a blank slate and a looming question.

The winning artwork will be displayed at State Department of Education headquarters in Boise and on [the SDE’s website](http://www.sde.idaho.gov).

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Attached: The three prize-winning artworks.