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SDE announces student winners of ‘future’ art contest

(BOISE) – Young Idaho artists with big dreams for their futures got a moment in the spotlight Thursday when Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra Thursday presented her 2021 budget request to the Legislature’s Joint Finance-Appropriations committee.

“The pictures they paint make me proud and eager to see the future they will make for us someday,” Superintendent Ybarra said, calling the students “bright, engaged, enthusiastic and motivated.”

Students’ voices help shape the programs and policies of Idaho’s public schools, and for the past five years the State Department of Education has asked students in grades 7 through 12 to visualize their futures through an annual art contest.

Top honors in this year’s “Picture My Future” art contest went to Luke Howard, an 11th grader at Idaho Arts Charter School in Nampa. His artwork depicts a boy growing up, thinking of various future occupations including astronaut and marine biologist. In the fourth and final image, the young man studies the “Roadmap of Life” and envisions a career in graphic design with color splashing out to represent creativity.

The next two winners are both 11th graders at Mountain Home High School. Yebom Yi won second place for her vivid watercolor with colored pencil showing a student gazing at the night sky and picturing possible futures. Third-place winner Ashlyn Alexander used ink pens and alcohol markers to show a woman at a computer, using digital art and graphic design tools.

The winning artwork will be displayed at State Department of Education headquarters in Boise and on the SDE’s website.

Students are encouraged to depict their personal visions of life after high school in the annual art contest, which previously was known as Investing in My Future.

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Attached: The three winning artworks