

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #149 (2006-2007)

December 11, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL HISTORY DAY WINNER

ASD Goal: Increase student academic achievement; establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by challenging each student academically.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Students at Dimond High School held their first ever History Day contest in conjunction with the 2006 National History Day competition. The annual event encourages students to make history come alive and is part of a contest that spans 49 states, the District of Columbia and American Samoa. Student projects focused on the theme "Taking a Stand in History."

Mercedes Curran entered Dimond's competition with a 10 minute video documentary on Steve Biko, a South African Civil Rights activist. Mercedes' video won the school competition and advanced her to the state and then national level. Mercedes entered the competition as one of more than half a million students in grades six through 12 across the nation. When final judging was complete, her video documentary was one of the 14 best projects in the entire contest.

For her efforts, Mercedes was selected to participate as a student ambassador in the "Jamestown Live!" Web cast. The Web cast focused on the history of the first permanent English Settlement in the United States. The live, interactive Web cast allowed teachers and students across the country to watch and engage in classroom discussions about the first settlement in our nation.

It is requested the School Board recognize Mercedes Curran for her extraordinary project that led to national recognition. We hope her enthusiasm and creativity will encourage other students to make history come alive.

CC/ME/HE

Prepared by: Heidi Embley, Senior Communications Specialist

Approved by: Michelle Egan, Director, Communications