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CHALLENGER SCHOOL SETS THE BAR HIGH IN UTAH

Salt Lake City, UT—August 19, 2009—In 2009, Challenger students in four states earned over 80 awards from state and national academic contests. As summer break comes to an end, Challenger students prepare to exceed educational standards once again in 2010.

Utah's 2009 academic award recipients are:

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Essay Contest (Grades 5–8)

- Salt Lake City Campus (Uintah Chapter)—Alandra McDowell and David Abueg
- Sandy Campus (Princess Timpanogos Chapter)—Dale Schlachter, Kolton Yager, Carly Rae Chistensen, and **state winner, Philip Soelberg**
- Traverse Mountain Campus (Wasatch Range Chapter)—Jason Manning, Amber Lee, and Megan Lee

21st Annual National Geographic Bee's State Final (Grades 4–8)

- Salt Lake City Campus—Vismaya Jui Kharkar*
- Sandy Campus—Philip Soelberg
- Traverse Mountain Campus—Mason Pachner

Scripps National Spelling Bee's State Final (Grades 4–8)

- Salt Lake City Campus—Vismaya Jui Kharkar*
- Sandy Campus—Ian Birge
- Traverse Mountain Campus—Isabella Harrington

2009 Freedom Festival Essay Contest

- Traverse Mountain Campus—Anika Ruby Baker and Carly Wanlass

Utah State Poetry Society's Junior Creative Contest

- Salt Lake City Campus—Vismaya Jui Kharkar*, Nicholas Weaver, and James Andrus
- Sandy Campus—Mansi Shah and Nichole Jeong
- Traverse Mountain Campus—Victoria Jacobsen

“What a delight it is to have such dedicated and enthusiastic students,” said Barbara Baker, CEO and founder of Challenger School. “We are engaged in our mission of teaching students to embrace challenge and find joy and self-worth through achievement. Our parents and teachers are committed to education, and it is gratifying to be a part of our students’ successes.”

In addition to the above academic contests, Challenger School encourages its students to attain a high degree of mastery in all traditional disciplines. Headquartered in Sandy, Utah, Challenger School is an independent private school with 20 campuses in California, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah that serves more than 10,000 preschool to 8th grade students annually. Challenger focuses on the foundations of knowledge (language arts, math, and logic) and emphasizes the rights and values described in America’s founding documents. For more information, go to ChallengerSchool.com.

* Vismaya Jui Kharkar of Challenger School in Salt Lake City, Utah, surmounted the odds of a fourth grade participant by conquering not only her school’s Geographic Bee and Spelling Bee, but also the state finals of the Utah State Poetry Society’s Junior Creative Contest, where Kharkar took first place for her poem “Wind.” Winner of her school’s Geographic Bee, she went on to become the only fourth grade, top 10 finalist at the 21st annual National Geographic Bee’s Utah State Finals. Similarly, Kharkar also competed at the State Finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. (Dicou, N. (2009, April 9). “Geography No Lost Art to These Students.” Retrieved July 23, 2009, from *The Salt Lake Tribune*: http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12087166.)

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