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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC WRITING AWARDS

Sixteen Mississippi students have been selected for national honors in the Scholastic Writing Awards Program of the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Three students were among the top national winners, Imani Skipwith of Jackson, Kerri Bland of Pontotoc, and Summer Lee of Hattiesburg.

Skipwith, a student at the Mississippi School of the Arts, received two Gold Keys, a Silver Medal, and a Gold Medal. He was also an American Voices Nominee and one of six students nationally to receive the New York Life Foundation \$1,000 Scholarship Award.

Bland, who attended the Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven and received a Gold Key and Silver Medal with Distinction, was one of 11 in the nation to receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the Portfolio category, open to seniors only.

Lee, a student at Oak Grove High School and an American Voices Nominee, received two Gold Keys, a Silver Medal, and an American Voices Gold Medal.

Other national winners from Mississippi, all of whom won Gold and Silver Medals, were Advikaa Anand, Madison, St. Andrew's Episcopal School; Caroline Biddle, Brandon, Northwest Rankin High School; Maleigh Crespo, Foxworth, Mississippi School of the Arts; Morgan Crosby, Ocean Springs, Mississippi School of the Arts; Isabella Durgin, Meridian, Lamar School; Ryley Fallon, Lucedale, The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science; Baker Hall, Flowood, Northwest Rankin High School; Savannah Phelps, Magnolia, Mississippi School of the Arts; Chloe Russell, Monticello, Mississippi School of the Arts; Ladorian Shelton, Jackson, Murrah High School; Sarah Shurden, Madison, Madison Central High School; and Shelby Tisdale, Pearl, The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science.

The Mississippi Regional Program, which is administered by Sally Birdsall and includes the entire state of Mississippi, is sponsored by the Eudora Welty Foundation in partnership with the C Spire Foundation and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.