

VHS Nominated for Global Classroom Award

In recognition of International Education Week, a joint initiative between the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to celebrate the benefits of cross-cultural exchanges and to highlight programs that prepare Americans for an increasingly interconnected global world, the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) is pleased to announce the nominees for the 2009 Global Classroom Award. These awards recognize schools that incorporate international issues and global awareness into the school community.

"Through this award program, we've encountered a tremendous amount of creativity and passion among U.S. school communities when it comes to hosting international exchange students and sending young American students abroad," said John Hishmeh, Executive Director of CSIET. "These programs are truly transforming educational communities around this country."

Vernonia High School in Vernonia, Oregon has been nominated by Cathy Ward of ASSE for the 2nd Annual Global Classroom Award. Over 50 schools from around the country were nominated by members of the community, teachers, administrators, and representatives of youth exchange organizations because of their dedication to promoting global awareness and their enthusiasm for welcoming foreign exchange students into their school.

The three winners will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship for students to study abroad, or equivalent funds to put towards increasing global awareness throughout the school community. In addition, one representative from each winning school will be invited to Hartford, Connecticut and receive complementary registration, accommodation, and airfare to take part in the 2009 National School Conference on International Youth Exchange.

The winners of the 2009 Global Classroom Awards were to be announced on December 1, 2008 on www.CSIET.org. Representatives from each school will be formally honored at the 2009 National School Conference on February 28, 2009. Last year's winners were C.D. Hylton Senior High School in Woodbridge, Virginia, Metropolitan Learning Center Inter-district Magnet School for Global and International Studies in Bloomfield, Connecticut, and Skaneateles High School in Skaneateles, New York. An excerpt from each winner's essay can be found on the CSIET website.

CSIET is a private not-for-profit organization, located near Washington D.C., whose goals are to identify reputable international youth exchange programs, to provide leadership and support to the exchange and educational communities so that youth are provided with meaningful and safe international exchange experiences, and to promote the importance and educational value of international youth exchange. CSIET has been promoting international youth exchanges since 1984.



VHS Gym Reopens! The VHS Girls Basketball team practices on the new gym floor, in the newly renovated building. The first Boys home game was scheduled for December 3, the first Girls home game was scheduled for December 5th.

Vernonia students collected all this food (right) during a fall food drive, which was delivered to Vernonia Cares by the Middle School leadership class just in time for Thanksgiving. The VHS drive yielded 293 pounds of food and a \$170 check. The Grade and Middle schools brought in 1086 pounds.



The VHS Band practices for their scheduled performance in the Thanksgiving Day Macy's Parade in Portland (left).

Have a safe & Happy Holidays Vernonia!



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