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Winners Announced in the 2015 TEAMS Award Competition from Library Media Connection and Gale

Competition awards educational products and funds to noteworthy teacher and media specialist collaborations

Santa Barbara, Calif. (Sept. 28, 2015) – Winning projects were announced last week in the 2015 Gale/Library Media Connection Magazine TEAMS Award competition, which challenged media specialists and teachers to collaborate in creating meaningful student learning experiences. Amongst the over 40 entries that were received from across North America, three schools—Murray Centennial Public School in Trenton, Ontario, Canada; Scott Middle School in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Portland High School in Portland, Tennessee—were recognized for their exceptionally innovative and effective projects with cash prizes and products from Library Media Connection (LMC) and Gale.

Both LMC, a renowned school library magazine now carried under the new School Library Connection learning platform, and Gale, a global provider of library resources, believe that partnerships between teachers and media specialists are extremely powerful in increasing student engagement and achievement. In an effort to inspire and support such collaborations, LMC and Gale partnered to create the TEAMS Award, a biannual competition originating in 2007 and now in its sixth year.

“Collaboration is just the beginning, and our TEAMS Award highlights how such teamwork between librarians and teachers can lead to the highest level of student learning and achievement,” said Marlene Woo-Lun, publisher of Library Media Connection.

“We know incorporating library resources directly into classroom learning benefits student achievement and these projects bring to life creative ways to bridge the gap from the library to the classroom,” said Paul Gazzolo, senior vice president and general manager for Gale, a part of Cengage Learning.

The winning projects demonstrated a wide range of creative approaches to the task. Teacher librarian Mary Walker Hope worked with first grade teachers at Murray Centennial Public School to create “Our Community Aurasma Gallery Walk,” which combined 3D technology and student art to target new social studies curriculum goals. Students at Scott Middle School were engaged in the research process like never before thanks to school librarian Jean Hellwege’s collaboration with middle school teachers that focused on social issues and involved a community fair, where students presented their work and raised money for their causes. At Portland High School, media specialist Michelle Gilliam launched a cross-curricular effort in the form of a community garden. Gilliam involved both students and teachers in the planning and development, and the produce from the garden was turned into healthy snacks to benefit the school’s underprivileged students.

The panel of judges from LMC and Gale recognized excellence in three additional submissions, earning them honorable mentions: Stocker Elementary School in Kenosha, Wisconsin; Highland Elementary School in Warrenton, Virginia; and Swan High School in Saginaw, Michigan.

More information on this year's winners and the TEAMS Award competition can be found at www.gale.com/TEAMS2015. Future rounds of the TEAMS Award will be presented by Gale and School Library Connection (SLC), as Library Media Connection and School Library Monthly magazines were joined to create the innovative professional development platform SLC in fall of 2015.

About Library Media Connection and School Library Connection

School Library Connection (SLC) is an extensive learning and development resource center for school library professionals. As the combined evolution of Library Media Connection and School Library Monthly magazines, SLC maintains their commitment to providing those in the school library field with practical insights and inspiration while also advancing the scope and mission of its predecessors with the incorporation of multimodal professional development pieces including learning workshop videos, interactive community discussions, and more. SLC is a product of Libraries Unlimited, a publisher in the field of professional development resources for school, academic, public, and special librarians since 1964 and an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC. For more information about SLC, Libraries Unlimited, or ABC-CLIO, please visit www.abc-clio.com/LibrariesUnlimited.aspx.

About Cengage Learning and Gale

Cengage Learning is a leading educational content, technology, and services company for the higher education and K-12, professional and library markets worldwide. Gale, a part of Cengage Learning, is a global provider of research resources for libraries and businesses for more than 60 years. Gale is passionate about supporting the continued innovation and evolution of libraries by providing the content, tools, and services libraries need to promote information discovery, enable learning, and support economic, cultural, and intellectual growth in their communities. For more information, visit www.cengage.com or www.gale.cengage.com.