

Student Spotlight Competition

Educational Forum 2024

Introduction

The Student Spotlight competition, sponsored by Thomson Reuters, will once again be held in conjunction with the Educational Forum. The Educational Forum broadens awareness of national and global issues affecting our community through a thought-provoking discussion.

The competition is based on a question prompt, related to John Hope Bryant's keynote address at the Educational Forum. Bryant is an American entrepreneur, author, philanthropist, and prominent thought leader on financial inclusion, economic empowerment and financial dignity.

Who is eligible?

Students grades 9-12 in a Minnesota public, private, charter, or home school during the 2023-2024 school year. Students must have an educator or program leader designated to review their submission. Educators will submit via a Google form the number of students in their program that will be participating.

What is the prompt?

Making your dreams come true is easy to say but hard to accomplish. In John Hope Bryant's book, *Up from Nothing*, he writes about the five pillars needed for success: education, financial literacy, self-esteem and confidence, family structure and role models.

Through the use of an essay, poetry, art, sculpture, or video, please explain how these pillars will be key to your personal success. Why are they key? Feel free to use as many of the pillars as desired to explain your story.

How will this be judged?

All submissions will be judged by a panel of business and education volunteers on the following criteria: comprehension/understanding of the subject matter, creativity, organization, clarity, and originality.

What are the prizes?

BestPrep and sponsor Thomson Reuters will invite the top 20 high school student winners and their respective teachers to attend the Educational Forum on February 8, 2024, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. No more than three winners will be selected from the same school. All winners will be expected to attend.

The students will also receive the following prizes:

1st place: The Kristie Award and \$2500 scholarship provided by the family of Kristie Greve*

2nd place: MacBook Air

3rd place: AirPods Max

4th place: Nintendo Switch

5th place: \$100 Target & \$100 Amazon gift cards

The remaining 15 winners will each receive a \$50 Target gift card. Educators representing the top five students will each receive a \$100 VISA gift card.

*The 1st Place winner will receive The Kristie Award, named in honor of long-time BestPrep volunteer and board member Kristie Greve. She had a successful 40-year career in communications. This award is a tribute to her passion for helping Minnesota students prepare for a successful future.