



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **WHAT WILL LANSING BE LIKE IN 150 YEARS?**

**LANSING, MICHIGAN, MAY 16, 2009**— Incorporated in 1859, the city of Lansing is celebrating its sesquicentennial (150 years). An essay contest was held as part of the Lansing 150 celebration activities which are taking place throughout 2009. Future scenarios described in the winning essays of students in the Lansing School District answer the question, “What Will Lansing Be Like in 150 Years?” The creative students--kindergarteners to high school seniors--envision the following:

- robots
- flying buses
- magic pencils
- a One Earth organization
- United Global Education On-Line
- a North American War
- contact with aliens
- an interplanetary spaceport
- General Motors as an international powerhouse

The winning students were invited to ride on a float sponsored by the Michigan State Employees Association (MSEA) in the Lansing 150 Parade of the Decades on Saturday, May 16. MSEA is constructing a time capsule for Lansing so the float features a giant hourglass with sand running through it to represent the time capsule. Celebrity mules Ruthie and Taco, owned by Dade Schultz of Charlotte, will be pulling the float. The mules appeared in Kevin Costner’s Oscar-winning movie, “Dances With Wolves.”

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*add 1—Lansing 150 Essay Contest Winners*

“These essays highlight the spirit of optimism that the young people of Lansing have for the city and for the future,” said Julie Lemond, Chief Academic Officer for the Lansing School District. “These essays warm hearts and serve as a reminder of our students’ potential.”

“The essays are currently posted at [www.Lansing150.com](http://www.Lansing150.com) and will be included in the time capsule,” said Martha Kliebert, Executive Director, Lansing 150. “One-hundred and fifty years from now, people will enjoy reading them and seeing if the students’ predictions for Lansing came true.”

Winning students are: **Conner Ray**, kindergarten (Mrs. Gorbe), Attwood Elementary School; **Xavyan Haynes**, first grade (Ms. Hoisington), Lyons Elementary School; **Kalani Davis**, second grade (Ms. Hougtaling), Pleasant View Magnet School; **Julianna Weiss**, third grade (Ms. Hamilton), Lewton Elementary School; **Demiastro T. Watson II**, fourth grade (Ms. Mckinnon), Lewton Elementary School; **Nicole Al-Alam**, fifth grade (Ms. Viaches), Lewton Elementary School; **Adam Ford, Jr.**, sixth grade (Mr. Curtis), Dwight Rich Middle School; **Bronson ManDeville**, eighth grade (Mrs. Veith), Dwight Rich Middle School; **Obada Ejoh**, ninth grade (Ms. Turner), Eastern High School; **Heather Simpson**, tenth grade (Mrs. Farrell), Sexton High School; **Ryan Gilbert**, eleventh grade (Ms. Rose), Eastern High School; and **Anna Ring**, twelfth grade (Mr. Greenburg), Eastern High School.