

For Immediate Release

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LIFE EXPERIENCES LEAD TO WINNING POETRY FOR LOCAL STUDENT

MARION, Ohio (05-04-2006) - Sixteen-year-old Taylour Angelo admits she's had her share of life's problems, which interestingly enough, have become the foundation for award-winning poetry. The Tuscarawas sophomore was recently notified that her poem, "The Perfect Inspiration," (see sidebar article) was selected to appear in A Celebration of Young Poets, published by Creative Communications. According to its Web site, it is "devoted to the promotion of writing, teaching and appreciation of student writing."

"I believe you can be anyone you want to be," explained Angelo, a student at TRECA Digital Academy (TDA), where she "attends" school online at home via computer. "You have the power to create a vision for yourself. There's potential for what you want to be."

For Angelo, that vision is a career in psychology or psychiatry. "Writing poetry allows me to write how I'm feeling," explains the soft-spoken daughter of Brenda Kallaur. "You can use what you're going through (personally) to be productive. Then it becomes a piece of art."

Since she started writing poetry in kindergarten, Angelo has authored 20 poems "that I've kept." But it's not just English classes where her love of writing shows. "My teachers in all of my classes tell me that I do well with writing," explains Angelo, who has maintained a 4.0 GPA since she began attending TDA four years ago.

Amanda Keefer, TDA English Department chairman who encouraged Angelo to enter the poetry contest, continues to be impressed with her skill as a writer.

"Taylour writes with artistry, not only when she's writing poetry, but in all of her assignments," noted Keefer. "Anyone can connect to Taylour's poem, no matter who or how old you are. That's what makes great poetry."

Keefer said her long-term goal as a teacher is to give students the ability to appreciate and understand art in any form. "With so much emphasis on testing, we sometimes lose the importance of art in our lives," she explained. "Art gives you the ability to understand humanity from a cultural viewpoint, to gain an understanding of our morals and values."

TRECA Digital Academy students and teachers utilize the latest education technology available, including iPods and podcasts in their curriculum. To listen to the award-winning student poem, as recited by Keefer, follow this link: http://tdacurr.treca.org/blogs/TDA_PubPoets/

Angelo is among the 2,420 students statewide who are enrolled or take classes through TRECA Digital Academy.

TDA has a local office at 834 E. High Ave., New Philadelphia, and is staffed by TDA Regional Director LuAnne Jackson. To discuss TDA or online learning in general, call Jackson at 330-308-9939. Or visit www.tdaonline.org.

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