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SANTA ANA, Calif., - On Saturday, April 26, 2008, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez hosted the annual Congressional "Artistic Discovery" Competition at The Arts Institute of California, Orange County in Santa Ana. Student contestants, teachers, family and friends gathered to enjoy a dinner reception provided by The Arts Institute of California, Orange County. During the reception Congresswoman Sanchez visited with guests and discussed the importance of involving youth in the arts.

"This competition truly highlights the incredible talent we have among our youth. I am proud to say that I have supported this competition every year since I took office almost twelve years ago," said Sanchez.

Sanchez awarded first place to Ashley Austin from Polaris High in Anaheim. Along with a \$10,000 scholarship from The Arts Institute of California, Orange County, Austin will also be provided with 3 roundtrip airline tickets (courtesy of Southwest Airlines) to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony taking place on Wednesday, June 25 in the nation's capitol. Austin's art piece will hang in the Cannon tunnel on Capitol Hill for an entire year.

Second place in the competition was claimed by Tiffany Le from Garden Grove High who was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship from The Arts Institute of California, Orange County. Joshua Matua from Gilbert East High in the Anaheim school district took 3rd in the competition and also received a \$3,000 scholarship from The Arts Institute of California, Orange County.

Samantha Phillips from Los Amigos High and Linda Lam from Garden Grove High, both in the Garden Grove school district received honorable mentions for their art work and were awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship from The Arts Institute of California, Orange County.

"It's wonderful to know that such an opportunity exists for a fifteen, sixteen or seventeen year old student to have their artwork hung in our nation's capitol." Sanchez said.

