



Students Win Cash Prizes in Essay Contest

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May 3, 2018, 4pm: Three Capital Region high school students won cash prizes for composing independently-researched essays involving the relationship between the United States and Russia.

The Albany-Tula Alliance sponsored the essay competition. The ATA was formed in 1991 to encourage cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the greater Capital Region of New York and our sister city of Tula, Russia. For over a quarter century, our exchanges have helped improve relations and understanding between countries. While government relations remain strained, the Alliance continues to work together as citizen diplomats.

First prize winner was Adam Aleksic, a junior at Albany High School. Aleksic won a \$1,000 prize for an essay titled “Intergenerational Linguistic Cooperation in Russia and America,” which drew on research findings from both countries to discuss how the younger generation can help teach the older generation a new language, as well as trends like slang and borrowings in their native language.

Second prize of \$500 was awarded to Ian Moore, a senior at Averill Park, who wrote that in a time of disquieting transition in society, with evolving values and diversity, the younger generation can help the older build trust and acceptance, embracing the means of establishing relationships through social media and exposure to new ideas.

Third prize of \$250 went to Alexandra Reszytniak, a junior at Academy of the Holy Names, who suggested that, while there are considerable differences between the United States and Russia in acceptance of lifestyle diversity and openness of speech, the disconnect between the older generation and the younger comes from misunderstandings from both parties and can be overcome.

The prizes were awarded during a celebration hosted by the Albany-Tula Alliance at the Fort Orange Club in Albany, Thursday, May 3. Each of the three winners presented a brief synopsis of their essays and research. All participating students received a certificate and gift in honor of their thoughtful essays. Congressman Tonko and Mayor Sheehan spoke and congratulated the winners. Photos and videos are available on the Albany-Tula YouTube Channel, Flickr page and Facebook page or visit albanytula.org for links.