



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David Carlucci

## Senator Carlucci Honors Winner of Second Annual Black History Month Essay Contest

DAVID CARLUCCI March 16, 2012

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Nanuet, NY (March 16, 2012) – In celebration and appreciation of Black History Month, Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Orange) today awarded North Rockland High School student Brandon Shields, the winner of the Senator's Second Annual Black History Month Essay Writing Contest, with a brand new Kindle and State Senate certificate.

Among the 68 students from surrounding high schools in Rockland County that participated in the month-long contest, only five finalists were selected by February 29<sup>th</sup>. The schools included Nanuet Senior High School, North Rockland High School, Clarkstown South High School, and Nyack Senior High School.

The educational initiative allows for students to articulate the importance and contributions that African Americans have made to our country. Students were encouraged to write a short, but thorough, 1,000 word essay that focused on how notable individuals demonstrated a legacy to improving the lives of all of our citizens.

“Through struggles and perseverance, the African American experience taught us to never give up in the face of hardship,” said Senator Carlucci. “This contest is meant to show both our gratitude and continue our reflection as we continue to embrace equality for all of our citizens. I’d like to congratulate our winner, Brandon Shields, as well as the remaining four finalists for an excellent showing.”

The essays selected were vetted by a panel from the Spring Valley chapter of the NAACP. The winner was selected based upon quality, grammar, originality, and an overall well rounded essay. He will also be recognized on the floor of the New York State Senate for his accomplishment.

The other four finalists in order from second place to fifth place included Silvy Abraham of Nanuet Senior High School, Sarah Buteux of North Rockland High School, Vincent Maher of North Rockland High School, and Darian Abreu of North Rockland High School.

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