



# Jesse White

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## SECRETARY OF STATE

# NEWS

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### **Jesse White Hosts Awards Ceremony For "Essays About Lincoln" Contest Winners**

Secretary of State and State Librarian and Archivist Jesse White today honored the winners of "Essays About Lincoln," a statewide contest in which students were asked to write a modern day version of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The contest is part of a campaign White developed to mark this year's 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Winners read their essays and received a plaque and cash award from White, including: \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place.

After the ceremony and reception at the Illinois State Library, the winners were given a private tour of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Winning essays will also be published in the 2009/2010 Illinois Blue Book.

The winners from nearly 2,000 students who submitted essays are:

#### Level 1 (Grades 5-6)

1st Place - June Kreml, Belleville  
2nd Place - Grace Moran, Rock Island  
3rd Place - Summer Wu, Lake Forest

#### Level 2 (Grades 7-8)

1st Place - Bryce Peters, Palos Heights  
2nd Place - Sara Serritos, Chicago  
3rd Place - Evan R. King, Paxton

#### Level 3 (Grades 9-12)

1st Place - Emiko Gomez, Chicago  
2nd Place - Teresa Cooper, Danville  
3rd Place - Kate Pond, Cisne

The Illinois State Library, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Center for the Book co-sponsored the competition. The national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission endorsed the contest, and the Illinois Commission provided grant funding for the contest.

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