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The SCEA Surprises Winning Student Artist with Best in Show Prize for 11th Annual Read Across America Art Contest

Orangeburg, SC – The South Carolina Education Association (The SCEA) has announced that the Best in Show prize for its 11th annual *Read Across America Art Contest* has been awarded to Kimberly Obiet, a budding 8th grade artist at William J. Clark Middle School in Orangeburg. This recognition comes as part of a celebration during *Read Across America Week* (March 2-March 6), an initiative designed to promote reading and its benefits, particularly among K-12 students.

A student of art teacher Ms. Malissa Wright, Kimberly created an exceptional work-of-art beautifully capturing the contest's theme. The *Read Across America Art Contest* is part of a reading campaign of The SCEA and the National Education Association's (NEA), a year-round effort committed to connecting students with diverse books and the countless joys of reading.

This year, The SCEA received nearly 350 submissions from student artists across the state, each reflecting the theme, "From the Mountains to the Sea, Read with Me." The contest aims to create a passion for literacy and art while shining a spotlight on the vast creativity of students attending South Carolina's public schools.

The contest and its theme - the enjoyment of reading - also ties right into two month-long observances in March: National Reading Month and Youth Art Month.

"The SCEA is proud to support both literacy and creativity in our public schools," said Dena Crews, President of The SCEA. "Kimberly's artwork truly captures the spirit of our theme, and we are honored to celebrate such talent and the hard work of teacher, Ms. Wright. We look forward to recognizing our other talented winners throughout South Carolina in the coming weeks." For more information about the contest and to view the full list of winners, please visit www.thescea.org/artcontest.

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