

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Branch President Name

Email

Phone number

Shakespeare Coordinator Name

Email

Phone number

**City Name Area High School Student to Compete in the**

**38th English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition in New York**

City, Date — Student Name, student of Teacher Name from School Name in City Name achieved first place at the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition Name Branch tournament on date. Due to restrictions imposed by COVID, Student Name will join more than 50 other contestants from around the country to participate in a digital version of the ESU National Shakespeare Competition on April 26, 2021.

Student Name earned second place, and Student Name was awarded third place in the Area (City Name) Branch competition. Each student performed a Shakespearean monologue of their choice and recited a sonnet. Competitors were judged on their understanding of their selected texts and on their ability to communicate their interpretation to the audience. Judges for the Branch Competition included (add names if appropriate).

Quote from Student Winner

Quote from Branch President or Shakespeare Coordinator

The **English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition** isa performance-based education program in which high school students nationwide read, analyze, perform, and recite Shakespeare’s works. Through the program, students develop communication skills and an appreciation of the power of language and literature. In the Competition’s three progressive levels, students perform in their own schools, at ESU Branch community competitions, and at the National Shakespeare Competition in New York City. Since 1983, more than 300,000 young Americans of all backgrounds have taken advantage of this opportunity to bring the timeless works of Shakespeare to life and learn to express his words with understanding, feeling, and clarity.

ESU National Shakespeare Competition

Date

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Student Name, as the winner of the ESU Area Branch competition represent the Branch in remotely in the ESU National Shakespeare Competition on April 26, competing with more than 50 other winners from Branch competitions nationwide. Via the internet, each will perform a monologue and sonnet before a panel of distinguished judges as well as their fellow contestants. Based on their performances, ten students will advance to a final round. Those finalists will perform their selections and compete for the first place award, which is an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend the Midsummer Conservatory at the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. For additional information regarding the English-Speaking Union National Shakespeare Competition, please visit [www.shakespearecompetition.org](http://www.shakespearecompetition.org).

**Founded in 1920, The English-Speaking Union** is a non-profit, non-political educational organization that employs English as a catalyst to foster global understanding and good will through educational and cultural exchange programs. The ESU carries out its work through a network of 58 Branches nationwide along with affiliates in the United Kingdom and 60 other countries. For additional information about the English-Speaking Union, please visit [www.esuus.org](http://www.esuus.org). The ESU Branch may write about the Branch…………………….. For details about the ESU Area Branch or to join the Branch please visit insert website link.

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