



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

January 15, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Governor McAuliffe and Virginia Council on Women Announce the 5th Annual STEM Essay Contest

On behalf of the Department of Education I am pleased to announce that Governor Terence R. McAuliffe and the Virginia Council on Women have announced the 5th Annual STEM essay Contest. The Council will award five scholarships (one in each of five regions) to a female junior or senior who will be pursuing a STEM education at an institution of higher education. Essays will be judged by a panel of Council members and women who hold a degree in or work in STEM fields.

I encourage you to share this opportunity with principals, teachers, parents and students in your school divisions. The Council will award five \$5,000 scholarships to female junior or senior high school students who will be pursuing a STEM career at an institution of higher education. One scholarship will be awarded in each of five geographic regions across the state. Additional scholarships may be awarded at the discretion of the Council.

The STEM Essay Contest was launched in 2012 with 170 young ladies from across the Commonwealth submitting essays focusing on the student's vision for a future STEM education or career. Last year, the Council received 381 essay submissions and distributed \$33,000 in scholarships to five girls.

Who is eligible?

- Junior or Senior high school girls
- Must be residents of Virginia
- Minimum 2.5 GPA

Deadline: Entries must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on **February 8, 2016**.

This year's winners will be notified by March 28, 2016 at an awards presentation and reception held at Capitol Square in Richmond. For more information about this scholarship program please visit:

<http://commonwealth.virginia.gov/council-on-women/stem-essay-contest/>.

SRS:LW/dr