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For Immediate Release:

Tate High School Students Earn Top Honors at Florida State French Competition

Students from J.M. Tate High School recently participated for the first time in the Le Congrès de la Culture Française en Floride, held in Orlando. The statewide event brings together students from across Florida to celebrate French language, culture, and the arts through academic and performance-based competitions.

Despite having only about two months to prepare for the event, Tate students demonstrated remarkable dedication as they prepared entries across numerous categories, including theatrical performances, poetry recitation, music, impromptu speaking, cultural projects, reading comprehension, and creative design competitions aligned with this year's theme, "The World of French Cinema."

Led by veteran French teacher - Evangeline Leventhal, the students represented Tate High School with distinction, earning recognition in several categories.

Superior Merit

- **Original French Skit (Writing and Performance):** Shiloh Cash, Kaala Cowell, Duyen Luc, Khloe McMillian
- **3-D Cultural Project:** Jagger Etheridge, Kira Kimmons
- **Individual Poetry Recitation:** Mariah Foster

Excellent Merit

- **French Play Adaptation:** Shiloh Cash, Kaala Cowell, Mariah Foster, Estelle Lentini, Duyen Luc, Khloe McMillian, Kiley Menser
- **Individual Poetry Recitation:** Kira Kimmons, Kiley Menser

Honorable Mention

- **Individual Poetry Recitation:** Kaala Cowell
- **Impromptu Speech:** Shiloh Cash
- **Reading Comprehension Test:** Jagger Etheridge, Nikolaus Huber, Khloe McMillian
- **French Song Performance:** Estelle Lentini, Anh Luc

In addition to their competitive events, students also created a cultural scrapbook highlighting how French language and culture are represented at Tate High School and designed a themed T-shirt connected to the competition's focus on francophone cinema.

While the awards were a significant achievement, the experience itself was equally meaningful. Students dedicated many hours outside of class memorizing lines, rehearsing performances, and refining their French language skills. Their commitment allowed them to confidently present and perform in French while competing alongside schools with long-established programs.

Participation in the competition fostered strong collaboration among students and teachers and provided an unforgettable opportunity to celebrate language learning, creativity, and cultural appreciation.

Tate High School extends its appreciation to the many individuals who supported the team's participation, including school and district leadership, faculty members who assisted with preparation and chaperoning, community supporters, and the organizers of the statewide event.

This inaugural participation marks an exciting milestone for Tate High School's French program and sets the stage for continued success in future competitions.

<https://www.floridafrenchcongres.org/about>

The Mission of CCFF

The Congrès of French Culture in Florida was established with the mission of fostering high school students' francophone interests by cultivating a place where students meet other enthusiastic Francophiles to inspire one another. During Congrès, held in the spring of each year, participants challenge themselves to improve their language skills and cultural knowledge while taking part in various competitions such as plays, skits, singing, artistic projects, impromptu speaking, poem recitation, and reading comprehension.

The Mission of Tate High School

To create a safe and supportive environment where each student can achieve high levels of learning and become a productive citizen.