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MONK WINS SAC AWARD

The Office of Indian Education of the U.S. Department of Education recently announced the winners of the 2010 Native American Student Artist Competition, an annual event that celebrates the values and documents the successes of education in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Pearl River Elementary sixth grade student Josiah Monk was awarded first place in the Personal Narrative category, Grades 6-8.

Josiah, the son of Delvin (Sam) and Sonja Monk of the Standing Pine Community, is a student in Mrs. Frankie Germany's Choctaw Challenger class at Pearl River Elementary. All Choctaw Challengers across the Tribal district were given the opportunity to enter art work or an essay in the contest which was open to all American Indian and Alaska Native students in grades Pre-K through 12. His essay was one of a total of 817 art and essay entries by native youth from 33 states. All entries related to the 2010 theme of the competition, "Bringing Honor Through Education." He was awarded a certificate, a plaque, and an electronic dictionary for the winning entry.

Josiah's essay will be part of the traveling exhibit of student art and essay winners which will be on display in museums, galleries, and organizations throughout the U. S. and on the Office of Indian Education website.

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The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, under the esteemed leadership of Miko Beasley Denson, has an enrolled membership of over 10,000 and is the only federally recognized tribe in the State of Mississippi. Headquartered in the Pearl River community, near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the Tribe has emerged as a leader in economic development. The Tribe provides a range of governmental services for its members including schools, a hospital, medical clinics, police and fire protection, courts, an elderly center, among many others.