



## **\$1,000 FALL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOLLOWS SUMMER HITS College Students to Identify Priority Issues and Innovative Solutions**

For Release 9/29/09

Contact [press@ourvoiceourcountry.org](mailto:press@ourvoiceourcountry.org)

[www.ourvoiceourcountry.org](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org)'s **New!** national \$1,000 Fall Scholarship Competition will start this Thursday, October 1 at 9 a.m., continuing to Dec. 4 at 6 p.m., eastern time.

Between June 15th and August 17th, the non-profit [www.ourvoiceourcountry.org](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org) held its first \$1,000 Scholarship Competition, during which 521 freshmen from colleges across the Country (as well as 607 others) posted concise, articulate descriptions of what they believe to be urgent national problems ("Topics"). During the competition, over 47,000 people, from every state visited the site, and 8,000 created log-in accounts.

The resulting, unfiltered content shows that Americans have deep concerns about a range of issues -- and that experts in the field they nominated through research (ProblemSolvers) have innovative solutions to put on the table. This competition began a process that will aggregate The People's favored Topics and ProblemSolver Solutions, bringing their authentic, non-partisan guidance to Washington in 2010.

Summer Competition winner Kelsey Price (University of Utah) identified instability in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region of Pakistan as an urgent problem for America, and she chose a former police chief in the region, Dr. Hassan Abbas (Kennedy School of Government/Harvard) as a 'ProblemSolver' to articulate an achievable solution.

Honorable Mention went to Kelly Novinski (Wilkes Honors College/Florida Atlantic University) for her entry calling for federal protection of Wetland areas; which provide flood prevention, capture toxins and serve as 'carbon sinks' that reduce climate change.

*This Competition is open to U.S. citizens attending any accredited college in the USA.*

See rules and regulations at:

[www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/scholarship.aspx?](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/scholarship.aspx?)

[ReturnUrl=participate/scholarship.aspx](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/scholarship.aspx?ReturnUrl=participate/scholarship.aspx)

**"Add my name to your list of supporters, as I greatly admire your efforts to engage young people in public service.**

**- Jim Ramstad, Republican Member of Congress (1990-2008)**

**"The website is amazing..I love the concept, purpose and faith it shares with everybody."- User comment, 7/09**

**"this is indeed the right time for the voice of the people to be heard, the will of the people to be done, and for Americans to become an informed electorate." Walter Cronkite**



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Click below to view over 1,200 *Recommended Topics* and *ProblemSolver Solutions* posted by scholarship competitors *and* other members of the general public since June.

*Topics:* [www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/recommend-topic-rate.aspx](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/recommend-topic-rate.aspx)

*Solutions:* [www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/solution-propose-rate.aspx](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org/participate/solution-propose-rate.aspx)

### **Site Info**

[www.ourvoiceourcountry.org](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org) provides the opportunity for all Americans to express their concerns, and gives visibility to those ready to provide answers -- sharing a clear sense of 'what flies' in the court of public opinion. The site went online in February, 2009 and was a featured presenter at The National Civic Summit in Minneapolis this past July.

*Our Voice Our Country* was developed over the past 6 years, with endorsements and guidance from Walter Cronkite, Ruby Dee, Joanne Woodward, Yolanda King, Jane Alexander, judges, professors, lawyers, students, senior citizens, soldiers, current and retired politicians, leaders of national non-partisan organizations and dozens of blue and white collar workers of all political parties and beliefs, from across the Country.

For more, visit the 'about' page at [www.ourvoiceourcountry.org](http://www.ourvoiceourcountry.org)

***Special thanks to our scholarship competition partner We The People (Center for Civic Education) and for outreach assistance from Fastweb.com and Zinch.com***

***Made possible with funding from the Yudelson and Patricia Brooks Foundations, and by donations from individual supporters like you.***