



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Congratulations to Stark Reading Contest Winners at Bridge City High School**

(ORANGE, Texas) – Bridge City High School students Chelsea Savoy and Avery Harris earned first place in Declamation and Interpretive Reading, respectively, at the school-level finals of the 112th Miriam Lutcher Stark Contest in Reading and Declamation, a scholarship program sponsored by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation.

On Monday, February 29, 2016, Bridge City High School students competed in the local-level contest, which was coordinated by Kathie Dorman, Bridge City High School teacher and school director for the Stark Reading Contest. Chelsea Savoy won first place in Declamation with *On Women's Right to Vote* by Susan B. Anthony, while Harris won first place in Interpretive Reading with her presentation of an excerpt from *The Button* by Robert Newman. Second place in Declamation went to Hope A. Hill, with Seth Hartman receiving second-place honors in Interpretive Reading.

Emily Lawrence, Bridge City High School's 2015 first place winner in Declamation, served as the emcee for the Bridge City competition. Elisha Bell, Bridge City High School Principal, presented awards to the 2015-16 school-level contest winners.

Each second-place winner was awarded \$1,500 in scholarships from the Stark Foundation, while the two first-place winners were awarded \$2,000 in scholarships. The first-place winners from West Orange-Stark High School will go on to compete against the first-place winners from other participating Orange County public high schools at the County Final of the Stark Reading Contest, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at the Lutcher Theater.

The Stark Reading Contest is sponsored by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation as part of its continuing mission to enrich the quality of life in the Orange community and encourage education. The aim of the Contest is to enhance the literary and forensic quality and skills of Orange County public high school students. The Contest has continued annually since its inception in 1904, which makes the 2015-16 school year the 112th annual year of the Contest. In addition to offering educational opportunities and experiences for students at eligible Orange County public high schools, participating students may earn scholarship awards for continued education.

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The 2016 winners of the school-level competition held February 29, 2016 at Bridge City High School (Left to Right): Hope A. Hill: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Declamation; Chelsea Savoy: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Declamation; Avery Harris: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Interpretive Reading; Seth Hartman: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Interpretive Reading.

For larger or high-resolution images, contact Amanda Adams at [aadams@starkfoundation.org](mailto:aadams@starkfoundation.org).

### **About the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation**

The Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1961 to encourage and assist education and to improve and enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas.

The Stark Foundation seeks to continue the legacy of its founders through the programs of the Stark Museum of Art, Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, The W.H. Stark House, and the Frances Ann Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts, as well as through the Miriam Lutcher Stark Contest in Reading and Declamation, a qualified scholarship program for public high school students in Orange County, Texas. These venues, programs and activities provide the community and region with rich resources and opportunities for study and enjoyment of the arts, nature, history, and culture as well as literary endeavors.