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NEWS RELEASE

Arizona students take honors in national investment essay contest

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phoenix, Arizona – Maxwell and Samuel Bregman are not your average entrepreneurs. The brothers from Hamilton High School each established their own business before graduating from high school. The Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE) is proud to announce that the talented brothers are also national winners in the 2020 InvestWrite student essay contest. Fueled by “countless hours of research... and following specifics stocks”, 12th grader Maxwell captured the attention of the InvestWrite judges with his essay, “Financial Independence: The New American Independence”, and received a 4th place National finish. Maxwell credits his success to what he learned from the Stock Market Game program and his ability to apply data-driven analysis to his business practice. Younger brother Samuel believes his “forward-thinking, optimistic mindset” set him up for success in this competition.

The innovative writing competition, sponsored by SIFMA Foundation, is a companion program to The Stock Market Game (SMG), an investing simulation in which students manage investment portfolios. Students participating in SMG are encouraged to apply the knowledge of saving and investing to an essay of no more than 1000 words. Judged by thousands of financial industry professionals, winning InvestWrite essays must demonstrate students understanding of important investment concepts such as long-term investing, diversification, and global capital markets.

Arizona Students participating in InvestWrite experience a rigorous judging process. Teachers select the top essays submitted by their students, in grades 4 – 12, to enter in the state competition facilitated by the Arizona Council on Economic Education. Jacob Katzman, 7th grader from Mountain Sky Middle School earned a 1st place win in the Arizona middle school division as he explained the role of Treasury Bonds in their investment portfolios for long term impact on local communities and the US economy.

Winning essays in the elementary division included first place winner Merhawi Paulos, 5th grader from Desert Willow Elementary School. Merhawi learned the valuable lesson that researching potential investments is important for success, “anything can happen in the stock market... you need to be prepared and get information about a company before you buy its stock”.

National and state InvestWrite winners, and their teachers, earn recognition and prizes including trophies, cash prizes provide by the Arizona Council on Economic Education and SIFMA. To learn more about all ACEE’s student program please visit <https://www.azecon.org/student-programs>.

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The Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to economic and financial literacy, and workforce development in Arizona. ACEE is the only statewide organization in Arizona which: has a strong, affiliated academic base with universities and community colleges; partners with the Arizona Department of Education and the Federal Reserve Bank; prepares teachers in teaching and students in learning personal finance, economics and entrepreneurship; and distributes proven non-proprietary economic education resources to schools free of charge.