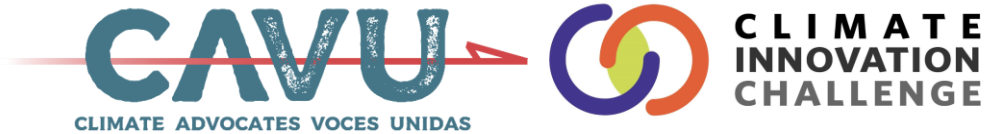


**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/10/23 5:00pm MST\*\***



**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

**Media Contact:** Staci Stevens at 202-294-3101 or [staci@cavu.org](mailto:staci@cavu.org)

**Youth Climate Leaders Compete in International Awards Showcase**  
*4th annual Challenge draws entries from around the world*

**Santa Fe, N.M.** – The [Climate Innovation Challenge](#) (CIC) will culminate today with the premiere of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Student Awards Showcase on YouTube ([YouTube.com/CAVUorg](https://www.youtube.com/CAVUorg)) at 5:00 PM MST. The Showcase, which announces this year’s award winners, is the culmination of a free STEAM program that includes a 6-lesson climate change and story-telling curriculum and contest created and produced by the Santa Fe nonprofit, CAVU (Climate Advocates Voces Unidas).

The CIC program cultivates student leaders to think innovatively and communicate effectively about addressing problems that arise in our changing climate. The program provides students a platform for sharing solutions built around their own interests and communities. For the challenge, students identify something they care about – their “entry-point” – and produce two to four-minute videos that highlight their youth-led climate solutions.

When CIC started 4 years ago it received participation from a small number of northern New Mexican schools. Today, the curriculum reaches students in 15 U.S. states, and 7 countries, exceeding 10,000 students annually.

“The growth we’ve seen in CIC across the globe is a testament to the growing need for engaging climate change education in our schools,” said Phil Lucero, education director at CAVU. “It really doesn’t matter where you live. We all feel the impacts of climate change in a variety of ways. This is why we need a variety of solutions.”

This year as the competition grew in scope and entries, New Mexico students’ climate solution videos continued to shine taking home 7 of the 14 prizes. Among the top award winners were students from New Mexico School for the Arts, Albuquerque Academy, Carlos Gilbert Elementary, Amy Biehl Community School, and Academy for Technology and the Classics.

As enthusiasm for CIC has grown, so has the community involvement. The Showcase was filmed at Reunity Resources Farm in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The community farm and composting operation are one of many community partners that lent their expertise to students as they developed their projects this school year. Other key local community partners included: Explora, Positive Energy Solar, Santa Fe Public Schools, Institute of American Indian Arts, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Santa Fe Indian School, True Kids 1, and Flower Hill Institute.

We invite you to watch and listen, our youth have something important to say.

A full list of prize winners is below and winning videos are available to view on [CAVU's YouTube channel after May 10 at 5:00 p.m.](#)

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/10/23 5:00pm MST\*\***

**Best in Show “CIC Founder’s Award,” a prize of \$1,500**

“Seagrass: Patching the Holes of Climate Change,” by 12th-grade students at Cutler Senior High School in Cutler Bay, Florida. Teacher: Nicolas Valdes

**Outstanding Entry in High School, a prize of \$500**

“High Schooler’s Guide to Thermal Solar Power”, by Teagan, a 10th-grade student at the New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teacher: Sarah Rowe

**Outstanding Entry in Middle School -- a prize of \$400**

“Creating Backyard Habitats”, by Athena and Adrian, 6th and 8th-grade students at Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Teacher: Dr. Elliot Wilkinson

**Outstanding Entry in Elementary School, a prize of \$300**

“Fashion Crisis”, by West, a 4th-grade student at Carlos Gilbert Elementary in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teachers: Lisa Grogan and Christine Biree

**Outstanding International Entry, a prize of \$300**

“Lake Bogoria,” by 9th through 12th-grade students at Lake Bogoria Girls High School in Lorwok, Kenya. Teachers: Amos Kibet Cheruiyot and Fredrick Kipruto

**Best Storytelling in High School, a prize of \$200**

“Managing Our Taxes to Combat War & Climate Change,” by 10th-grade student Ana, from New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teacher: Sarah Rowe

**Best Storytelling in Middle School, a prize of \$200**

“Rooftop Gardens,” by 6th-grade students Vivian and Avery from the Sage International School of Boise, in Boise, Idaho. Teacher: Morgan Baker

**Best Storytelling in Elementary School, a prize of \$200**

“Composting,” by 5th-grade students Stephen, Bryce, Anthony, Axel and Amari from Roland Rodgers Elementary School in Galloway, New Jersey. Teacher: Stephanie Pross

**Most Practical or Effective Concept in High School, a prize of \$200**

“Sustainable Seafood,” by Carmen and Eileen, 9th-grade students at the Academy for Technology and the Classics in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teacher: Lindsay McAfee

**Most Practical or Effective Concept in Middle School, a prize of \$200** “Deforestation,” by 4th through 8th-grade students at the Magarini Children’s Centre in Marafa, Kenya. Teachers: Patrick Hare Furaha and Emmanuel Karisa Baya

**Most Practical or Effective Concept in Elementary School, a prize of \$200** “Time Crunch for Lunch,” produced by the 3rd-grade students at Amy Biehl Community School in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teachers: Tara Dayton and Malcolm Smith Carlisle

**Most Creative or Engaging Project in High School, a prize of \$200**

“Your Lawn Sucks,” by Willa, a 10th-grade student at New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Teacher: Sarah Rowe

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 5/10/23 5:00pm MST\*\***

**Most Creative or Engaging Project in Middle School, a prize of \$200**

“The Sound of a Better Planet,” by Madison, 8th-grade student at Dock Street School for STEAM Studies in Brooklyn, New York. Teacher: Amber Cogswell

**Most Creative or Engaging Project in Elementary School, a prize of \$200**

“Wild Our World,” by 3rd and 4th-grade students Matthew and Elle from The Living Learning Homeschool in Nairobi, Kenya. Teacher: Mom

*Climate Advocates Voces Unidas is a nonprofit that inspires locally-led solutions to the climate crisis with visual storytelling and educational initiatives. Learn more at [CAVU.org](https://cavu.org).*

###

The 2022/2023 Climate Innovation Challenge was provided free of charge to all participants through the generosity of our sponsors:

LANL Foundation, Sandia National Labs, Santa Fe Community Foundation, McCune Foundation, PNM, Los Alamos National Labs, Hestia Fund Santa Fe, Liberty Ranch, Santa Fe Independent Film Festival