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Newark Students Awarded First Place in Nationwide NASA Competition

For Immediate Release

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April 10, 2002, Newark, NJ - Students at Ann Street School in Newark have been selected for special recognition in the 2001-2002 NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Student Involvement Program. Four eighth-grade students - Maria Calvache, Matt Cardoso, Mark Cerqueira and Jackie Sousa - were placed first in the *Watching Earth Change* category of the contest.

“We are very proud of our students for their outstanding achievement in the NASA competition,” said Newark Public Schools Superintendent Marion A. Bolden.

“We are very pleased that Ann Street School has represented Newark Public Schools in such fine fashion. Winning first place in the NASA Student Involvement Program proves that Newark students can compete on a national level,” added Principal Joseph Maccia.

A total of 3,400 students submitted 1,300 entries for the competition, which is aimed at students of all ages. The *Watching Earth Change* category is for grades five to eight and nine to twelve.

“The students are very excited about winning. They worked as a team on their entry for the contest, which was a 1,500 word research paper titled *Watching Earth Change Through the Migratory Sandhill Cranes’ Journey*,” said science coordinator Joseph Cullen. The entry will be submitted along with first place entries from six other NASA centers to judge the overall national winner.

The NASA Student Involvement Program is a national program for students and is designed to engage students in NASA’s unique missions and to honor exceptional participants. Judging is carried out, and winners are chosen by, a panel of scientists, engineers, educators, journalists, and other professionals.

As winners, the students will participate in a NASA Award Ceremony and will be presented with plaques, at the school, in the coming weeks. Ann Street students placed third in the same contest last year - Maria Calvache was also a member of that team.