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Winners came from 33 high schools across San Diego County

See Dropbox link for:

[Virtual ceremony video, winners' video reel, photos, Spanish soundbites.](#)

**San Diego** – Today the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) announced the 40 winners of the annual [MTS and Reyes Coca-Cola Laptop Scholarship Essay Contest](#), which awards top-scoring students with brand new laptop computers. The winning students came from 33 different high schools in San Diego County, and were awarded a [Lenovo - Ideapad 3](#).

Due to the pandemic the laptops are coming at a crucial time for students who had already been working through issues with technology at home for over a year. Students shared stories about the struggles of distance learning, including borrowing or sharing laptops, old laptops not working, and challenging Wi-Fi connections.

“It’s been a very challenging year for these students. They all faced an unprecedented learning experience,” said Nathan Fletcher, MTS Board Chair, and Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors. “I am very proud of them. It is encouraging to see that this up-and-coming generation has a lot of talent, resolve and perseverance.”

Students in grades 9-12 were asked to explore PRONTO, the new fare collection system MTS passengers will be using this summer, and write about how its new capabilities will help improve access to transit in San Diego, with features such as fare-capping, instant money deposit, multi-card family options, online balance tracking and much more.

“We are very excited for students and all of our passengers to begin using [PRONTO](#) this summer, and the essays reflected that excitement,” said Mary Casillas Salas, MTS Boardmember and Mayor of Chula Vista. “We appreciate the students, and the partnership with Reyes Coca-Cola and the San Diego County Office of Education in making this contest a success every year.”

“The last year has shown very clearly the impact technology can have on students’ access to education,” said Dr. Paul Gothold, San Diego County Superintendent of Schools. “And while many students have returned to school campuses, they still need computers. I am proud of the students who participated and thankful to MTS and the Reyes Coca Cola Bottling Company for their support.”

“The Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling Company is honored to be a part of this event,” said Denise

Brant, Account Executive at Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling Co. "Technology plays an intricate part in each of our daily roles, to know that each recipient will be able to use their laptop not only to further their education, but for so much more. I commend each and every recipient for their award and wish them all the best."

The laptop scholarship essay contest is a long-standing event partnership between MTS, Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling Company and the San Diego County Office of Education. To be eligible to win, students had to be San Diego County residents and enrolled in a San Diego County high school.

**News Category:**

San Diego

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