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**San Diego** – Helping the environment, saving money and extra study time were a few compelling arguments high school seniors made about the benefits of taking public transit to win laptops as part of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and Coca-Cola Laptop Scholarship Essay Contest.

Lenovo Yoga 2-in-1 touch-screen laptop computers were awarded to the top 40 student essay writers from 27 different schools in San Diego County. Students were required to submit an application form along with a 1,000-word persuasive essay targeting college students on the benefits of taking transit to class and to get around San Diego. The laptop scholarship contest is a partnership between MTS, Coca-Cola Refreshments of San Diego and the San Diego County Office of Education.

“Each year, the competition grows. Students participated from all over the county, including Chula Vista, El Cajon, Scripps Ranch and Oceanside. Many of these students are also passengers so they understand the benefits to taking transit,” said MTS Board Chairman Harry Mathis. “We appreciate the partnership with Coca-Cola and the San Diego County Office of Education to help make this a great learning experience for hundreds of students participating each year.”

To be eligible to win, students had to be San Diego County residents, enrolled in a San Diego County high school and slated to graduate in spring 2015. Judging criteria for the student essays were based on creativity, grammar, research and critical thinking. MTS received 206 entries from students at 66 different high schools.

Winners of the 2015 MTS & Coca-Cola Laptop Scholarship Essay Contest are:

Alex Tung, *Mira Mesa High School*  
Amineh Rastandeh, *Torrey Pines High School*  
Anders Bogan, *Mission Vista High School*  
Ariana Huesias, *Mission Vista High School*  
Autumn Murphy, *Torrey Pines High School*  
Baylee Cardwell, *Point Loma High School*  
Benjamin Guo, *Grossmont High School*  
Bonnie Lin, *Eastlake High School*  
Bryan Duong Trieu, *Eastlake High School*  
Camille Harris, *San Diego High School*  
Claire Kosinski, *Escondido High School*  
David Mendoza, *Montgomery High School*  
Emilie Rodriguez, *Helix Charter High School*  
Emmanuel Huff, *Patrick Henry High School*  
Emmanuel Lopez Prieto, *The Preuss School UC San Diego*  
Frankie Orona Jr., *Olympian High School*  
Gabriela Arce Mendez, *TOP Blended Community School*  
Graham Root, *Helix Charter High School*  
Isaac Padilla Tapia, *The Preuss School UC San Diego*

Isaiah Osborne, *Madison High School*  
Jasmine Nichols, *San Marcos High School*  
Jazmin Quintanilla, *San Ysidro High School*  
Jenna Hugo, *Scripps Ranch High School*  
Joey Gardetto, *Helix Charter High School*  
Karla Real, *Garfield High School*  
Lily Buchanan, *Patrick Henry High School*  
Lucas Pereira, *Eastlake High School*  
Madelyn Dow, *Valhalla High School*  
Mary Cozy, *Herbert Hoover High School*  
Michaela Elmer, *Cathedral Catholic High School*  
Nicholas Misleh, *University City High School*  
Paris Gramann, *High Tech High North County*  
Payton Hovey, *Point Loma High School*  
Priscilla Tamborini, *Montgomery High School*  
Rebekah House, *Eastlake High School* Renelle Gadon, *Olympian High School*  
Ryan Zentmyer, *Grossmont High School*  
Thuy Hong Nguyen, *Serra High School*

Varun Krishnan, *La Jolla High School*  
Victoria Tom, *Westview High School*

### **About MTS**

MTS operates 95 bus routes and three Trolley lines on 53 miles of double-tracked railway. Every weekday more than 300,000 passenger trips are taken on MTS bus and Trolley services. For more information on how you can use public transportation and save money, go to [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com).

**Photo (from left to right):** MTS Board Chairman Harry Mathis; Coronado Councilmember Bill Sandke; San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald; winning high school students; Cory Holstein, Coca-Cola Refreshments; MTS Chief Executive Office Paul Jablonski; Music Watson, San Diego County Office of Education

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