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San Diego – The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) recognized the 40 winners of the annual MTS and Coca-Cola Laptop Scholarship Contest in a ceremony at the 12th & Imperial Transit Center on Friday, May 10. MTS had students from 70 different high schools enter the contest.

The top 40 scoring students came from 27 different campuses and were awarded a 15.6" HP Touch-Screen laptop and a North Face laptop backpack. Students in grades 9-12 were required to submit an essay about lowering the cost of student transit passes and how this can help increase ridership. MTS also asked students to provide strategies for how MTS can encourage more students to ride.

"It was great that winners came from so many campuses. Their essays presented convincing ideas. Students were required to think critically about the way public transit shapes our communities," said Paul Jablonski, MTS chief executive officer. "We appreciate the partnership with Coca-Cola and the San Diego County Office of Education in making this contest a success. It's a great learning experience for the students."

The laptop scholarship contest is a long-standing event partnership between MTS, Coca-Cola Refreshments of San Diego 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.

Winners of the 2019 MTS & Coca-Cola Laptop Scholarship Contest are:

Bezalel	Aboyce	The Preuss School UCSD
Maria	Aguirre	The Preuss School UCSD
Ashley	Asadi	Del Norte High School
Bryan	Quezada-Ayala	Diego Hills Central Charter School
Kate	Calhoun	Fallbrook Union High School

Cherish	Clarkson	Grossmont High School
Holly	Day	El Capitan High School
Aleia	Dela Cuadra	High Tech High Chula Vista
Robert	Dennett	River Valley Charter School
Fulton	Elkins	Valley Center High School
Lindsey	Flores	Clairemont High School
Mandy	Frazer	El Capitan High School
Alexsandra	Garcia	High Tech High Chula Vista
Nephtali	Garcia	Sweetwater Union High School
Arianna	Girmai	Hoover High School
Melissa	Hernandez	Granite Hills High School
Bennett	Hochner	Sage Creek High School
Isaiah	Irizarry	Bonita Vista High School
Christabelle	Junaidi	Del Norte High School

Nicholas	Lam	Helix Charter High School
Mark	Lindgren	Canyon Crest Academy
Alexis	Lona	Mater Dei Catholic High School
Valeria	Montemayor	East Village High School
Emett	Morrow	Rancho Buena Vista High School
Derek	Murchison	High Tech High Chula Vista
Karoshi	Nanavati	Rancho Bernardo High School
Jose	Padilla Tapia	The Preuss School UCSD
Faith	Pilbin	Fallbrook Union High School
Ethan	Prom	Carlsbad High School
Jed	Quiaoit	Rancho Buena Vista High School
Rusty	Rinehart	Rancho Bernardo High School
Isaac	Rivera	High Tech High Media Arts
Olivia	Root	Helix Charter High School

Evelia	Rosas	Vista High School
Neha	Sahota	San Marcos High School
Juan	Serrano	The Preuss School UCSD
Lauren	Sherburne	Christian High School
Matthew	Skimina	Fallbrook Union High School
Julia	Starkey	Mira Mesa High School
Melissa	Tamarkin	Valley Center High School

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 in 10 cities and the county. In FY 2018, MTS served more than 86 million riders.

Photo (from L to R): Paul Jablonski, MTS Chief Executive Officer; Cory Holstein, Coca-Cola Refreshments; winning students; Music Watson, San Diego County Office of Education; and Georgette Gómez, MTS Board Chair and San Diego City Council President

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