

Poster Contest Aims to Increase Voter Turnout

By Toya Stewart Downey

Middle school students from Nay Ah Shing are behind a new advertising campaign to encourage Band members to get out and vote.

“We wanted to involve students in our efforts so we can teach them the importance of getting engaged and participating in the political process...we hope this is a lifelong lesson that will keep them interested in politics,” said Elizabeth Scott, chairwoman for NVAM.

“As we know at NVAM, every vote counts. We want our youth to know that their voices do indeed make a difference,” said Elizabeth.

The posters are displayed throughout District I, including at the government center, assisted living center, the clinic and the community center, and other local businesses.

Students were recognized for their work at a June 17 NVAM meeting.

Darius Barnes, 12, a sixth-grader, created a poster that said, “Our Native American Vote Counts.” Winners were selected for their creativity and expression of the importance of the Native vote and what it means to them. Prizes were awarded for the top three designs.

Jakob, 12, a seventh-grader, said winning “was awesome.” He reminded people of the date of the upcoming primary election, August 10, and encouraged them to go vote.

Another student, Ronald Hardheart, 11, a fifth-grader, put his poster up at the government center. Ronald said he wanted to participate in the contest to let people know, “Voting is important.”