



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Mary Bevan  
814-269-2490 or [bevanm@ctc.com](mailto:bevanm@ctc.com)

**CTC Foundation Sponsors Essay Contest Focused on Great Americans, Honors Local Students**

**Johnstown, PA, June 28, 2016** – The overarching ideals exhibited by Great Americans during their lifetimes deserve to be honored and celebrated as the glue that holds our great nation together. To that end, CTC Foundation, an affiliate of Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), has sponsored the Great Americans Day Essay Contest for an eighth consecutive year.

The essay contest continues the conversation of civic virtue that begins at the Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum, which is held annually at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ). Local students are encouraged to write a two-page essay focusing on the Great American highlighted at the Forum. This year's subject was Thomas Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson, widely known as the author of the Declaration of Independence and third president of the United States, was also a scientist, diplomat, historian, and founder of the University of Virginia. He was a tireless advocate of religious freedom and public education, encouraging people to be more knowledgeable and aware of the modern world.

Numerous essays from three school districts were submitted to the contest, highlighting why Thomas Jefferson was a Great American. Jonathan Guaetta (Windber Area High School) was chosen as the first place winner, and Holly Chappie (Windber Area High School) was chosen as the second place winner. Cash prizes, donated by Conway B. Jones, Jr., CTC Foundation Chair, were presented to the winners at an awards ceremony that was held at CTC's Environmental Technology Facility.

The Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum, which is funded by Howard M. Picking, III, CTC Board of Directors' Chairman, and his wife, Adelle C. Picking, has been celebrating the lives of a wide range of citizens since 1998. Presidents and First Ladies have been honored as well as authors and sports heroes.

"Jonathan said in his essay that Thomas Jefferson's 'political endeavors expanded the nation dramatically and set up the nation's future for the American Dream,'" said Edward J. Sheehan, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer of Concurrent Technologies Corporation and President, CTC Foundation. "The American Dream is something to which we all aspire and is something that the Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum helps to promote. The Forum brings together students, businessmen and women, teachers, entrepreneurs and more to intermingle and remind us all of what it takes to be a Great American. Thomas Jefferson envisioned a great future for the new nation of the United States of America when he wrote the five words 'all men are created equal' in the Declaration of Independence. It is our responsibility to live our lives as he, and other Great Americans, did in order to carry on his legacy. Jonathan and Holly, thank you for reminding us that Thomas Jefferson continues to be an inspiration to many."



*The essay contest winners and their families were invited to a ceremony held at CTC's Environmental Technology Facility. From left to right: George Guaetta, Roxann Guaetta, Jonathan Guaetta (first place winner), Kristen Blackburn (teacher), Holly Chappie (second place winner), and Carol Chappie.*

Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) is an independent, nonprofit, applied scientific research and development professional services organization providing innovative management and technology-based solutions to government and industry. As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, CTC's primary purpose and programs are to undertake applied scientific research and development activities that serve the public interest. CTC has been named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies by [Ethisphere Institute](#), the global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. In addition, CTC has been named a [Best for Vets Employer](#) by Military Times. For more information about CTC, visit [www.ctc.com](http://www.ctc.com).

CTC established the CTC Foundation in 1998 to improve the quality of life for the general public through unique economic development initiatives that involve the private and public sectors as well as nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit [www.ctcfoundation.org](http://www.ctcfoundation.org).