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CTC Foundation Sponsors Great Americans Day Essay Contest Focused on Will Rogers, Local Students Honored

Johnstown, PA, June 30, 2015 – The lives of Great Americans provide models of civic virtue, and for that reason, CTC Foundation, an affiliate of Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC), has sponsored the Great Americans Day Essay Contest for the seventh consecutive year. In keeping with the spirit of the Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum, which is held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ), students from around the Johnstown, PA area were encouraged to research and write a two-page essay about the Great American highlighted at the Forum. This year's subject was Will Rogers.

Over two dozen essays were submitted, all highlighting two positive traits and one negative trait about Will Rogers. Taylor Strong (eleventh-grade, Northern Cambria High School) was chosen as the first place winner, and Angie Meyers (twelfth-grade, Windber Area High School) was chosen as the second place winner. Due to a generous donation from Conway B. Jones, Jr., CTC Foundation Chair, cash prizes were presented to the winners. An awards ceremony was held on June 30, 2015, at CTC's Environmental Technology Facility to honor the winners.

Will Rogers was a jack of all trades—cowboy, newspaper columnist, poet, movie star, Broadway actor, philosopher, and comedian. Rogers earned widespread fame for his ability to understand and voice the issues and concerns of everyday people. Taylor's essay highlighted the fact that "Will was a generous, humble, humorous, kind man," and that "everyone should treat others just the way he did."

The Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum has been held since 1998, celebrating the lives of a wide range of citizens, from Presidents and First Ladies to authors and professional athletes. Funding for the Citizenship Forum is generously provided by Howard M. Picking, III, CTC Board of Directors Chairman, and his wife, Adelle C. Picking.

"The Great Americans Day Citizenship Forum and the essay contest bring our community together and get students thinking about what it takes to be a Great American," said Edward J. Sheehan, Jr., President & Chief Executive Officer of CTC and President, CTC Foundation. "Will Rogers may have found fame through his roping and acting ability, but he used his fame to bring awareness to the plight of the unemployed, the devastation of natural disasters, and the effects of drought on the American farmer. We can learn a lot about life by considering some of his famous quotes, such as 'Do the best you can, and don't take life too serious,' and 'Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.' Will Rogers was an advocate for progress and was willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. We could all learn a few lessons from the way he lived his life. Thank you to Taylor and Angie for their essays and helping us to recognize the traits that make him a Great American."



The winners of the Great Americans Day essay contest were recognized at an awards ceremony held at CTC's Johnstown, PA facility. From left: Conway B. Jones, Jr., Taylor Strong, Ed Sheehan, Jr., Angie Meyers, and Howard M. Picking, III.

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.

CTC established the CTC Foundation in 1998 to promote the application of innovative, scientific, technological and humanistic principles to enhance economic progress and the quality of life. For more information, visit www.ctcfoundation.org.