

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King today announced that Ethan Carlson, a senior at Spirit Lake High School, is this year's winner of the annual Fifth District Congressional Art contest. This contest is an annual, nationwide art contest for all high school students, and a winner is chosen from each Congressional district. Multiple young artists submitted outstanding pieces for consideration, and Carlson's work was selected by Iowa art professionals as the top submission in the 2009 Fifth District competition.

Carlson's winning piece of artwork – entitled "Blue Eyed Metaphor" - will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year along with the other winning entries from Congressional districts across the country. Carlson will be flown to Washington, D.C. to attend a congressional reception on June 24, 2009, courtesy of Southwest Airlines.

"We have an outstanding group of art teachers and art professionals in western Iowa," King said. "We also are blessed with many outstanding young artists, including several who participated in this year's competition. I want to thank all the contestants who participated this year, and congratulate Ethan for winning this year's competition. All of western Iowa commends him for his artistic talents."

Carlson is the son of Tom Carlson of Humboldt and Lauri Carlson of Spirit Lake.