



Arizona students create posters warning of meth dangers

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PHOENIX -- The auditorium at Capitol School in Phoenix was packed with 7th and 8th graders Tuesday being honored for their work in drug prevention and waiting for the winning "Meth: Not Even Once" poster contest winners to be revealed.

In November, the Arizona Attorney General's Office and Arizona Meth Project invited 7th and 8th graders from across the state to participate in the contest. It is a part of a comprehensive campaign to make young people more aware of the dangers of methamphetamine.

"We looked at over 500 submissions from across the state and these kids know what reality is," Erin Raden with Arizona Meth Project said. "These kids have seen it or heard about it. Drug abuse and methamphetamine abuse touches everyone's life and just because you're a middle school student, you know we have to give them credit, being mature and savvy and knowing what's going on. The artwork is moving."

First place winner, 8th grader from Thatcher Middle School, Jenna Poarch explained how she got her inspiration for the poster.

"Meth controls you and you don't really have control over your actions," she said. "So, I felt that sometimes some people can probably feel like a puppet on strings, it controls you."

The second place winner was 7th grader Alyssa Castillo, and 8th grader Osiel Ferrer's poster came in third.

The winning students received cash prizes and gift certificates to Peter Piper Pizza and Harkins Theaters.

"The Not Even Once message communicated in these gritty ads is clearly working," Attorney General Terry Goddard said. "The Arizona Meth Project has achieved profound changes in the way methamphetamine is perceived by

Arizona children and families. Since the launch of the Arizona Meth Project campaign, use of the drug among you has significantly declined, falling by more than half in many categories."