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## **Texas and California Students Win LGBTQ+ Youth Video Competition**

Los Angeles, CA (January 4, 2021) Students from Houston and the San Francisco Bay Area are taking the honors in the 2020 OUR PRIDE video competition for 1-5 minute short videos in the genres of news story, short documentary, creative fiction, music videos, animation, and public service announcements on LGBTQ-related issues and themes, organized by Los Angeles-based LGBTQ social advocacy nonprofit Rainbow Advocacy and San Diego-based educational nonprofit Global SchoolNet, with sponsorship by online collaborative video company WeVideo.

In the creative fiction genre, Houston-area senior Su Spector (19), a student at a Houston, Texas high school, produced the winning short video "Juliet & Juliet," which depicts the unlocking of memories of a lost love from a young girl's youth.

"The story addresses adolescent relationships, but it adds more of the complexities that we see today in society. And rather than lead the viewer to a specific, singular conclusion, which this film sort of does," said Spector, "it also opens the door for further conversation on matters of significance in the world we live in today."

"What's most impressive about Su is how she uses film to explore things meaningful to her," media arts instructor Pejman Milani noted. "And she was able to do that in this film. I'm honored to have been a part of her growth as an artist and I know this is only the beginning."

The five minute video "Gender Sexuality Awareness Club," created by 7th grader Gabe Boudtchenko (13), a student at Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto, California, won for short documentary, profiling the backstory behind the school's club and its impact on students' lives.

"I've enjoyed filming and creating ideas ever since laying my hands on an old camcorder. Since then I've been learning the art of video editing and how to tell a compelling story and experimenting with different CGI effects," Gabe said. "My lifelong dream is to work in film and create something that will be remembered."

"Gabe is an amazingly talented filmmaker," recalled Julia Lee, multimedia art teacher. "He was always curious about improving his filmmaking skills and did a great job learning new techniques. I share with the students to find a purpose to what they want to film and bring the story out. 'What is the purpose of your film?' I am so proud and glad that Gabe was able to find that purpose by supporting the LGBTQ+ community and letting their stories be heard."



The winning entries are viewable at [OurPride.org](http://OurPride.org). In partnership with UCLA TV & Film Archives, the entries have now been archived in the Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Collection, the only program in the world exclusively dedicated to preserving LGBTQ moving images.

OUR PRIDE Video Fest is a program of Los Angeles-based 501(c)3 Rainbow Advocacy, along with San Diego-based 501(c)3 Global SchoolNet Foundation, with gratitude to founding sponsors WeVideo and GayRealEstate.com.

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### **About Rainbow Advocacy**

Los Angeles, CA-based [Rainbow Advocacy](#) is an LGBTQ+ civil rights, social action & advocacy 501(c)3 nonprofit providing content development and networking with collaborating organizations and LGBTQ+ advocates around the world, and is producing awards for the winning entries.

### **About Global SchoolNet Foundation**

San Diego, CA-based [Global SchoolNet Foundation](#) is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit with collaborative programs including International CyberFair, Doors to Diplomacy, and Global Forest Link. Since 1996, GSN's International CyberFair (virtual world's fair) has engaged 5.5+ million students and connected schools, youth organizations, and communities across 194 countries, making it the oldest and largest online educational program of its kind.

### **About WeVideo**

Mountain View CA-based [WeVideo](#) provides a powerful, easy to use, cloud-based collaborative video creation platform. With over 30 million accounts created to date, WeVideo is the first choice of businesses, consumers, educators, and students. The WeVideo for Education platform is used by millions of students across grade levels and subjects, whether students are learning in person, at school, from a distance, or in a blended setting, with the platform empowering them to create, collaborate and express themselves with authenticity.