



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017**

## **EDISON STUDENTS WIN PRIZES IN C-SPAN'S VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

*Students address Congress and the president in documentaries on public policy*

**WASHINGTON** – C-SPAN today announced that students in Edison, New Jersey are honorable mention winners in C-SPAN's national 2017 StudentCam competition.

Shekhar Iyer, Aman Karangutkar and Amit Acharya, students at John P. Stevens High School, will receive \$250 for their documentary, "Before the Rise," about climate change.

Wali Qureshi, a student at John Adams Middle School, will receive \$250 for his documentary, "The Unjust Justice System," about criminal justice reform.

Each year, since 2006, C-SPAN partners with local cable affiliates in communities nationwide to invite middle school students (grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) to produce short documentaries on an issue of national importance. This year, students answered the question, "Your message to Washington: What is the most urgent issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?"

In response, C-SPAN received a record 2,903 video submissions from over 5,600 students in 46 states and Washington, D.C. Students worked in teams or as individuals to address a wide range of public policy issues from equality and the economy, to the environment and education.

"With the new president and Congress in office, we wanted to hear from students about public policy issues they would like addressed in 2017," said Craig McAndrew, C-SPAN's Manager of Education Relations. "StudentCam offers young people the opportunity to connect with lawmakers and experts and provides them with a platform to voice their opinions creatively."

The most popular topics chosen by students were equality (16 percent), which included police brutality, racial and gender discrimination, and women's rights, followed by the economy (13 percent) and the environment (11 percent).

C-SPAN is funded by America's cable television companies, which support StudentCam. In Edison, C-SPAN is available locally through Optimum. This year for the first time, Altice USA which operates the Optimum TV, phone and internet services, was a leading sponsor of C-SPAN's StudentCam competition.

"Altice USA congratulates Shekhar Iyer, Aman Karangutkar, Amit Acharya and Wali Qureshi on this achievement. The students that participated in this contest tackled issues that were important to them, their community and our nation. Altice USA shares C-SPAN's commitment to providing educational opportunities for our young leaders to engage in their communities and have their opinions heard," said Lee Schroeder, senior vice president, government and community affairs, Altice USA.

These winners are among 321 students from across the country winning a total of \$100,000, including one grand prize winner, four first prize winners, 16 second prize winners, 32 third prize winners and 97 honorable mentions.

The 150 winning videos may be viewed at <http://www.studentcam.org/winners17.htm> and may be used in a broadcast with attribution to C-SPAN. To schedule an interview with one or more winning students or with C-SPAN education staff, please contact Robin Newton, Media Relations Specialist, at [rnewton@c-span.org](mailto:rnewton@c-span.org) or Pam McGorry, Education Programs Specialist, at [pmcgorry@c-span.org](mailto:pmcgorry@c-span.org)

The annual competition is sponsored by the C-SPAN Education Foundation. Videos were evaluated by a panel of educators and C-SPAN representatives based on the thoughtful examination of the competition's theme, quality of expression, inclusion of varying sides of the documentary's topic, and effective incorporation of C-SPAN programming.

###

**About C-SPAN Classroom:**

C-SPAN Classroom is the network's FREE membership service that works with C-SPAN's programs on public affairs, coverage of Congress, non-fiction books and American history to create free resources for teachers, students and the public to use in classrooms, projects or for research. C-SPAN Classroom's website provides social studies teachers with access to thousands of free resources, including short current events videos, Lesson Plans and Bell Ringers, plus Constitution Clips and On This Day in History events. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/> and follow on twitter: [@CSPANClassroom](https://twitter.com/CSPANClassroom).

**About C-SPAN:**

Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three public affairs television networks in both SD and HD; C-SPAN Radio, heard in Washington D.C., at 90.1 FM and available as an App (Android, iPhone, Blackberry); and a video-rich website offering live coverage of government events and access to the vast archive of C-SPAN programming. Visit <https://www.c-span.org/>.

**About Altice USA:**

Altice USA, a subsidiary of Altice Group (Euronext: ATC, ATCB), is the fourth largest cable operator in the United States, delivering residential and business services to 4.6 million customers across 20 states. Providing high-quality products that keep customers connected, Altice USA (through its Optimum, Lightpath and Suddenlink brands) offers digital cable television, high-speed Internet, voice, WiFi and advertising services. To meet our customers' content and information needs, the company through News 12 also offers hyper-local news and programming created specifically for the communities we serve. For more information, visit [www.alticeusa.com](http://www.alticeusa.com).

**CONTACTS:**

Pam McGorry – 202.626.4861, [pmcgorry@c-span.org](mailto:pmcgorry@c-span.org)  
Robin Newton – 202.626.8910, [rnewton@c-span.org](mailto:rnewton@c-span.org)  
Kristen Blank – 516-803-2358, [kristen.blank@alticeusa.com](mailto:kristen.blank@alticeusa.com)