

## For Immediate Release

## The Community Education Center Sponsors the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Celebrate America" Creative Writing Contest

October 15, 2009

WASHINGTON—The American Immigration Council's Community Education Center is proud to sponsor the 13<sup>th</sup> annual "Celebrate America" Creative Writing Contest. The contest kicks off on October 16, 2009 under the yearly theme, "Why I Am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants." Through this contest, fifth graders around the country are given the opportunity to embrace the United States' immigration history through their poetry, essays, or other creative pieces.

Students enter their work in local contests sponsored by chapters of the American Immigration Law Association (AILA). Each chapter forwards the local winning entry to the National Competition where the entries are reviewed by a distinguished panel of judges that have included U.S. Senators, authors and journalists.

The grand prize winner along with three guests will receive an all-expenses paid trip to the American Immigration Council's Annual Benefit Dinner; where they will be recognized for their achievement and recite the winning piece. Their entry will also be published in the Congressional Record.

Last year, up to 5,000 students entered their creative work and this year the Community Education Center looks forward to even greater numbers of participants. The contest inspires educators to bring the U.S. Immigration history and lessons into their classrooms and gives fifth graders the opportunity to explore America as a nation of immigrants.

###

The American Immigration Council's Curriculum Center strives to promote a better understanding of immigrants and immigration by providing educational resources that inspire people to engage in thoughtful dialogue, creative teaching, and critical thinking while being culturally and historically sensitive to others. Visit our website at <a href="https://www.communityeducationcenter.org">www.communityeducationcenter.org</a>.

For More Information, Please Contact:

Claire Tesh
Director, Community Education Center
<a href="mailto:ctesh@immcouncil.org">ctesh@immcouncil.org</a>
202-507-7518