

Solanco High School Student Named Finalist in 11th District Congressional Art Competition



Congratulations to Solanco artist Sophie Pizzulli, Class of 2026, whose pastel drawing was selected as a finalist in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District Art Competition, hosted by Congressman Lloyd Smucker.

Pizzulli's artwork, *Spiritual Awakening*, was selected as a district finalist in this prestigious juried competition. Her work will be exhibited for one year in Congressman Smucker's Washington, D.C. office, offering a unique opportunity for visiting constituents, dignitaries, and congressional staff to view the talent emerging from Solanco High School.

Rendered in soft pastel, *Spiritual Awakening* is a striking image of a skeleton illuminated by radiant beams of golden light emerging from its chest. The work demonstrates a profound level of technical skill, as well as a sophisticated understanding of light, color, and anatomical structure. Pizzulli's piece evokes themes of inner transformation, energy, and the human spirit, demonstrating remarkable creativity and conceptual strength.

Congressman Smucker hosted a celebratory reception at Garden Spot Village in New Holland, PA, where all finalist and participant works were on display. Pizzulli, her family, and her art teacher were in attendance for the announcement of this year's finalists. Congressman Smucker personally congratulated Pizzulli on her powerful artwork and extended an invitation for her and

her family to visit his Washington, D.C. office for a private viewing of her work, along with a guided tour of the Capitol complex.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors the Congressional Art Competition to honor and encourage artistic talent in high schools across the United States. Since its founding in 1982, more than 650,000 students have participated in this annual celebration of creativity and expression.

Solanco's Visual Arts Department is incredibly proud of Pizzulli's accomplishment. Her dedication to her craft, creativity, and ability to convey meaning through technical excellence make her an outstanding representative of the Solanco community and the artistic spirit of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.