



WTIA Announces Finalists for Technology Leader of Tomorrow

Online voting is open to the public beginning today; all finalists receive scholarships

SEATTLE – February 3, 2010 – Furthering its commitment to support the region’s future technology innovators, the [Washington Technology Industry Association](http://www.washingtontechnology.org) (WTIA) (<http://www.washingtontechnology.org>) today announced the finalists for its annual Technology Leader of Tomorrow Award. Finalists were chosen from eligible sixth- through eighth-grade students enrolled in the [Technology Access Foundation's](#) (TAF) TechStart Program. Public online voting to determine the winner begins February 3rd, and the result will be announced on March 4th at the [WTIA's 15th Annual Industry Achievement Awards](#) (IAA) event.

The 2010 Technology Leader of Tomorrow Finalists are:

- **Surafel (Sasu) Techane** – sixth-grader at St. Joseph school
- **Ruby Damper** – seventh-grader at Orca school
- **Geneva Damper** – sixth-grader at Orca school

“It’s the youth of today who will shape tomorrow’s technology landscape, and we are proud to partner with TAF’s TechStart Program to encourage student interest in technology,” said Ken Myer, president and CEO of the WTIA. “I could not be more proud to present scholarships to this year’s finalists and wish them all luck in their future endeavors.”

This year’s finalists participated in TAF’s TechStart fall project titled, “The Internet: Past – Present – Future.” During the ten-week term, students researched the history of the Internet and explored such topics as: digital citizenship, online security, cyber bullying, search engines and HTML. After completing independent research on these topics, students were led through a series of organized debates where they defended their opinions and conclusions. For their final project, each student designed a Web site utilizing Web 2.0 technologies.

A panel of judges from varying fields chose finalists from a pool of students who best demonstrated potential for success through leadership, learning and technology skills. Each of the finalists will be presented with a scholarship and technology prize package.

To vote, go to <http://www.washingtontechnology.org/iaa2010/iaacharitable.asp>. For more information about the awards or to register for the awards ceremony, visit <http://www.washingtontechnology.org/IAA>.

Geneva Damper’s Web site: <http://blogs.techaccess.org/techstart/mrbrown/gdamper/>

Ruby Damper’s Web site: <http://blogs.techaccess.org/techstart/mrbrown/rdamper/>

Surafel Techane’s Web site: <http://blogs.techaccess.org/techstart/mrbrown/stechane/>

The following companies are sponsors of this year’s IAA:

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- **Contributor:** Washington State Department of Commerce

About the Washington Technology Industry Association

The Washington Technology Industry Association, founded in 1984, is one of the largest statewide associations of technology companies, IT departments and individual technology professionals in North America. With more than 1,000 members representing more than 125,000 employees in Washington State, the association is a catalyst for sharing expertise, fostering collaboration, delivering key business services and advancing the value and global impact of technology companies doing business in Washington. The association's global partners are Microsoft, Regence BlueShield, Vertafore and Wells Fargo Insurance Services. The association's funding partners are AH&T Insurance, F5 Networks, Moss Adams LLP and RealNetworks. For more information, go to <http://www.washingtontechnology.org>.

About Technology Access Foundation

Since 1996, Technology Access Foundation (TAF) has helped over 1,000 children develop the academic skills that are vital for success in a technology-driven global economy. Through free after-school programs and the new TAF Academy model, they are building a bridge across the opportunity gap and changing lives through technology education. For more information, go to <http://www.techaccess.org>.

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