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## LeRoy Student takes 7<sup>th</sup> Place in National Poster Contest

(LEROY, August 3, 2009) – Courtney Monier, a fifth-grader from Le Roy Elementary and Illinois winner in the 2009 Tar Wars poster contest, traveled to Washington, D.C., July 11-14 to participate in the national poster contest and awards ceremony. [Tar Wars](#) is a tobacco prevention program that brings local family physicians and health care providers into schools to teach students about the effects of tobacco on the body and how different messages in tobacco advertising influence people. The program is administered by the [American Academy of Family Physicians](#).

The Tar Wars awards ceremony was held July 13 and 14 in Washington, D.C., where the original artwork from all the state poster contest winners was on display. Monier's poster featured the message "Mummy said not to smoke" along with the image of an Egyptian mummy and was awarded 7<sup>th</sup> place in a contest filled with outstanding posters.

As part of the Tar Wars program, the state winners saw the sights in the Washington, D.C., area and visited their U.S. representatives and senators. The Monier family met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin in the Capitol building on July 14.

"The Illinois Tar Wars program is very proud of Courtney and the tobacco-free message she took with her to Washington," said Ginnie Flynn, Tar Wars coordinator for Illinois and vice president of communications for the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians. "We have a tremendous ten year history reaching 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders with Tar Wars, and the McLean County effort has been a huge component of our success."

McLean County health department has been teaching Tar Wars to schools throughout the county for nine years, and has produced three state poster contest winners in that time.

Tar Wars was developed in 1988 by the Hall of Life at the Denver Museum of Natural History and Doctors Ought to Care. In its first year, the curriculum was delivered to 7,000 Denver fifth-graders. The AAFP has overseen Tar Wars since 1997, and the program has grown to reach thousands of fourth- and fifth-grade students in all 50 states, several territories and internationally each year. Since its founding, Tar Wars has reached more than 7 million children.

EDITORS NOTE: If you would like to interview Courtney Monier, please call Ginnie Flynn at 630-427-8004 or e-mail [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com). If you would like to interview health educator Carolyn Rutherford, who gives presentations for the Tar Wars program in McLean County, please contact her directly at Carolyn Rutherford 309 888-5968 or [carolyn.rutherford@mcleancountyil.gov](mailto:carolyn.rutherford@mcleancountyil.gov)

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To learn more about the American Academy of Family Physicians and about the specialty of family medicine, please visit [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org).