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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Downtown State College Rotary Club Hosts 4-Way Speech Contest for State High Students
Panel of Distinguished Community Leaders Selects Top Speakers

STATE COLLEGE, PA – The Rotary Club of Downtown State College is pleased to announce the winner of the 2008 Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest for high school students. The competition is the first in three rounds of speeches, with the final round resulting in a \$1,000 cash award for the winner. Josephine Kim, a senior at State High, was awarded first place in the competition, which took place at the State College Friends School on March 27. Brett Atanasio, a junior, took second place in the contest, and Anna Johnson, a senior, placed third. The judges included Pamela Francis, Supervisor of Planning, Program Development, and Evaluation for State College Area School District; Victor Romero, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from Dickinson School of Law; Jody Althouse, Head of the State College Friends School; and Lori Bedell, Undergraduate Officer, Department of Communication Arts & Sciences for Penn State University.

Contestants each had to write and deliver a speech on the topic of their choosing, incorporating the principles of truth, fairness, goodwill and friendship, and discussing whether the actions cited within their speech were beneficial to all parties concerned. These are the guiding principles for Rotarians in how they conduct business and everyday life. Josephine's winning speech was entitled "Take My Breath Away," which focused on the challenges and injustices caused by living in a world that is not yet smoke-free. Brett's speech was entitled "A Blind Eye to Hate," which addressed the issue of hate crimes. Anna spoke about discrimination in a speech that was called "Is Every Person Created Equal?"

All three finalists received cash prizes from the Downtown Rotary Club. Josephine will advance to the regional competition, which will be held in State College on April 26th at The Senior Center in downtown State College, with hopes of winning there and advancing to the final district competition that takes place during Rotary District #7350's 2008 conference at The Penn Stater on May 10th. All three will present their speeches to Club members at Damon's during the weekly Downtown State College Rotary Club meeting on April 10th.

The Downtown State College Rotary Club is one of four Rotary clubs in the county, with a fifth one forming in Bellefonte. The Downtown Club focuses on charitable work relating to youth in our community and the surrounding region. The clubs are part of Rotary International, which has 1.2 million members worldwide who remain dedicated to volunteer community service, promoting high ethical standards in all vocations and furthering international peace. In addition to thousands of volunteer hours, each year Rotary contributes millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and relief around the globe, funds 1,200 international scholarships and provides cross-cultural exchanges for 7,000 young leaders. Through its flagship program PolioPlus, Rotary has contributed more than \$600 million to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. To learn more about Rotary, visit the State College Rotary website at www.sc-rotary.org.

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