

## **The New Chrysler Awards \$5,000 in Prizes at 13th Annual "Spirit in the Words" Poetry Program**

- Brent Solomon of Albany, Ga. is selected as first place winner
- Ten journalists from all across the country were selected to compete in the competition
- Poetry program and awards continue Chrysler's commitment of supporting the arts

August 20, 2007, Auburn Hills, Mich. -

In front of a standing-room-only crowd, The New Chrysler awarded \$5,000 in prizes to the top three finishers at the "Spirit in the Words" poetry competition at the 32nd annual convention of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), August 8, 2007 in Las Vegas.

The winner, NABJ member Brent Solomon of Albany, Ga., works as a reporter for WALB-TV, an NBC affiliate television station in Albany. He performed his original work, "Corporate Brotha" to capture the first place prize of \$3,000.

"Chrysler is proud of its longstanding support of NABJ, and pleased to host the Spirit in the Words event, said Jason Vines, Chrysler Vice President – Communications. "That the event is in its 13th year speaks strongly to the passion and excitement attendees and presenters have for the event."

Sheila Spencer, a freelance journalist from Los Angeles captured second place with her work of "Let Me See Your Hands," while Ronald Clark, a senior journalism major from Hampton University and a student member of NABJ took third place with his poem, "An Epidemic."

Detroit-based hip-hop and spoken word artist Mike-E was the host and master of ceremonies for the event. He also treated the audience to several of his poems and a short concert of songs from his recently introduced album, "Afroflow."

An independent panel of judges selected the winners based upon each contestant's originality, presentation and overall stage presence.

The "Spirit in the Words" poetry program has been offered at diverse journalism conferences throughout the U.S. including UNITY, the National Association of Black Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the Native American Journalists Association. The poetry program invites participants to write, read and perform their works, in an effort to further the art of poetry.

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