



# Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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Laura Hunter  
312-814-2354  
[www.illinoisbiz.biz](http://www.illinoisbiz.biz)

## Governor Announces Contest Winners For 2004 Coal Calendar

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today honored 25 school children from across the state whose essays and artwork were chosen to be included in the Illinois Coal Calendar for the year 2004. The winners were recognized this afternoon at an awards ceremony at the Executive Mansion.

"This competition provides a great opportunity for our young people to learn more about our state's most abundant natural resource and pass on what they've learned to the rest of us," said Governor Blagojevich. "I have pledged to help revitalize Illinois' coal industry by encouraging power plants to implement recent advances in clean coal technology. It's a plan that makes sense economically and environmentally."

This is the 15th straight year that the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has sponsored the contest. Illinois students from the fifth through eighth grades entered the competition by submitting artwork and essays demonstrating coal's significance in Illinois and its relationship to energy and the environment. More than 2,600 students participated in this year's contest. Each of the winners received a certificate, a medal and a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond.

"The Administration's efforts to bolster the coal industry in Illinois are aimed at bringing back jobs for coal miners and revitalizing communities across southern and central Illinois," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "The Coal Calendar is just one way in which we can support an industry that is so important to our economy."

The artwork submitted by Arielle Gibson of Gardner was selected as the overall winner and will be featured on the calendar cover. In addition to the individual student winners, a special award was given to Minooka Junior High for submitting the most entries (407). Immaculate Conception School in Morris was also recognized for having the highest percentage of students participating.

Copies of the 2004 Coal Calendar will be available this fall. To order a calendar, write to Linda Dunbar in DCEO's Office of Coal Development, 620 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701, or call

217-524-3820.

Attached is a list of this year's winners:



2004CoalCalendar051203.doc

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