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Anthem Institute Student Named Second Place Winner in National Career Education Poster Design Competition

(Springfield, PA / Washington, DC) February 1, 2012 – After receiving more than 80 entries from students across the globe, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) today announced the winners of its student poster competition. Michael Fitzgerald of Anthem Institute was awarded second place in the highly competitive poster competition.

The contest was launched as part of ACICS' Centennial celebration. Since 1912, ACICS has been a leader in advancing excellence and access to post-secondary education that prepares students with the skills needed to become competitive in the workforce. Many of the submissions included designs representing the role of career education in preparing students to succeed in industries such as business administration, allied health, information technology, criminal justice, and culinary arts.

“ACICS received submissions from talented students across the globe, utilizing different artistic styles and techniques that are taught in many of our school's art and design programs,” said Dr. Al Gray, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of ACICS. “Our Centennial marks an important milestone in accreditation history, and we are pleased to showcase the work of our talented design students in this competition.”

Learning that his poster design was chosen as a finalist came as a surprise to Fitzgerald, who thought he would never finish in the top three. His design – *Road to Transition* – incorporates a visual theme with cars from different time periods to illustrate the changing education and workforce environment from 1912 to the present. Using mixed media to create his poster, he began by painting four pictures by hand on a Bristol board with a set of 48 markers to give a wide variety of colors. He then photographed the paintings, transferred and cropped them on his computer, and added the black background and the text.

“Everyone in the class was focusing on the 100 years, but I thought the quality education part was more important,” Fitzgerald said when describing his design. “I wanted to show graduates looking into the future. I left the right-top of the picture blank, because you don't know what is out there.”

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After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Temple University, Fitzgerald decided to study Graphic Design at Anthem Institute to further develop his technical training. Courses such as typography, fundamentals of design, foundation and drawing, color theory, and computer skills have helped him achieve his goals.

“There are plenty of opportunities,” he continued. “Once [students] graduate with a quality education, [they] can pretty much do anything [they] want. The future is a blank piece of paper.”

Visit the [Centennial](#) section of ACICS.org to view the top three winning posters and learn more about the inspiration for Michael Fitzgerald’s design.

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About the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools

Founded in 1912, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) is one of the most respected and longest established national accreditors of academic institutions in the United States. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACICS accredits more than 800 private post-secondary institutions offering certificates or diplomas, as well as institutions offering associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees in programs designed to educate students for professional, technical, or occupational degrees. For more information, please visit www.acics.org.

About the ACICS Centennial

ACICS will recognize its 100 years of service throughout 2012 with a number of events and initiatives designed to engage schools, faculty, students, and employers in the community. In May, ACICS will launch a week-long [community service initiative](#) to provide an opportunity for schools and students to give back to the communities in which they serve. In November, the ACICS Centennial Gala in Las Vegas will highlight the agency’s rich history of serving a leading role in helping students gain access to quality career education. Click [here](#) for more information on the ACICS Centennial and related activities.