

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA INQUIRIES

Patsy Brown
713-963-0121
pybrown@jas-hou.org



JAPAN
AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
HOUSTON

TEXAS STUDENT TAKES TOP SPOT IN THE 18TH ANNUAL ALL-U.S.A. JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST

HOUSTON, TX (JUNE 2022) – Japan-America Society of Houston (JASH) is pleased to share that the winner of the 2022 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest has gone on to take first place at the **18th Annual All-U.S.A. High School Japanese Speech Contest**.



Blessing Adanuri Anyiam, a 2022 graduate of **L.V. Berkner High School** in **Richardson**, represented Texas at the national competition with her speech entitled “The Courage to Face Myself” (自分向き合えた勇氣). In her four-and-a-half-minute speech, Anyiam reflected on her high school experience, discussing the anxiety she faced as a freshman and what she learned while studying online during COVID-19. The speech highlighted the transformative power of brand-new experiences on one's personality and character.

JASH Executive Director Patsy Brown shared, “We are so very proud of Blessing. Learning Japanese is no mean feat! The U.S. Foreign Services Institute ranks Japanese as the most difficult language for native English speakers to learn. By demonstrating her Japanese language skills, Blessing is also exhibiting high cultural intelligence. We look forward to seeing how Blessing will utilize her Japanese proficiency to further friendship between the U.S. and Japan.”

JASH Speech Contest Chair Hiroko Sato noted that “Blessing is an example of the impact that strong and sustained language programs can have on the community. We congratulate Richardson ISD and Blessing’s Japanese instructor, Mayumi McDonald. We hope that more students in Texas will be inspired by Blessing to further their understanding of the Japanese language and of Japan, its people, and its culture.”

As the winner of the 2022 All-U.S.A. High School Japanese Speech Contest, Anyiam will receive a \$500 scholarship. In addition, Anyiam will go on to represent the United States in the “Overseas Students’ Japanese Speech Award (JSA) Contest to be held in Japan (if the event is able to take place).

The All-U.S.A. Japanese Language Speech Contest is organized by the Japanese Scholarship Foundation, also known as the Aurora Foundation. Contestants are selected by hosts of regional Japanese language speech contests.

For print-ready high-resolution images, to request press tickets, or to arrange for an interview with Blessing Adanuri Anyiam, contact Japan-America Society of Houston Executive Director Patsy Brown at 713.963.0121 or by email at pybrown@jas-hou.org.

###

jas-hou.org
2990 Richmond Avenue
Suite 670
Houston, TX 77098

713.963.0121

About Japan-America Society of Houston

Japan America Society of Houston (JASH) is the leading organization that connects Houston's diverse community, local businesses, and individuals to advance the mutual interest of American and Japanese peoples. Our programs in language and education, arts and culture, and business initiatives and networking provide opportunities for collaboration and important people-to-people exchange. Visit jas-hou.org for more information, or follow JASH on Facebook (JapanAmericaHouston), Instagram (@JapanAmericaHouston) and Twitter (@JASHouston).



JAPAN
AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
HOUSTON

jas-hou.org
2990 Richmond Avenue
Suite 670
Houston, TX 77098

713.963.0121