

DESIGN YOUR OWN FUTURE

CONTEST WINNERS

1st Place: "Don't Be A Statistic"

Students: Jake Scott, Kyle Morgan & Erin Kratzer

Teacher: Janet Harris

School: Francis Tuttle Technology Center



2nd Place: "The Dropout"

Students: Micah Woodbury & Will Fowler

Teacher: Dana Myers

School: Francis Tuttle Technology Center

3rd Place: "Graduate"

Students: Zach Houston

Teacher: Janet Harris

School: Francis Tuttle Technology Center

View the winning videos at <http://www.okea.org>
or <http://nie.newsok.com>.

One person drops out of school every 26 seconds in America. If dropout rates don't change, nearly 13 million more students will become dropouts in the next decade. The impact on their lives and the nation's economy is tremendous.

High school dropouts earn about \$10,000 less every year than high school graduates. But they don't just earn less—they also have more trouble holding onto any job.

High school dropouts were adversely affected the most when the economic recession first hit nearly two years ago. In December 2007, 7.5 percent of high school dropouts were unemployed. By September 2009, 15 percent were jobless, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Meanwhile, just 4.9 percent of those who graduated and went on to earn at least a bachelor's degree were without a job in September.

And high school dropouts just don't suffer economically compared to their peers who graduate. High school graduates are more likely to live longer, to vote and to volunteer. High school graduates are less likely to rely on food stamps, to be teen parents and to become incarcerated.

Help yourself or someone you know graduate. Learn how at <http://www.nea.org/home/DropoutPrevention.html>.

Stay in school. Design your own future.

