

## About HALO

HALO is a community organization with an emphasis on public education and mentoring of minority children. We, weekly, present educational information about Urology health and ailments via our public radio show "Konsultasyon Urologik" on 1020 AM, Radio Mega. HALO annually sponsors and participates in several back to school health fairs and participates in various school-related career day events. We have a very successful mentorship program working closely with students of several middle and high schools in the community.

During the Annual Convention, students and participants engage in discussions and activities throughout the three-day event. Examples of topics in the past have included:

- An outline of steps to enter post secondary education institutions;
- Workshops on how to obtain Financial Aid and develop successful study habits;
- Taking advantage of the new wireless communication networks to gain access to the Internet;

## Purpose of the Essay Competition

The HALO Essay Competition is designed to engage high school students in a range of topics that affect the community and environment in which they live. Students are challenged to use an analytical process to argue and defend their stance on the presented topic. As a result, students develop basic skills which are essential to becoming dynamic members in the world around them.

## How to Apply

### ***Application Deadlines:***

The deadline for receipt of the Essay Application Form and at least one reference is December 18, 2008. The deadline to submit the 600-word essay on the given topic for consideration of the January 2009 award is January 2, 2009. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### ***Application Process:***

- 1) Review the [Rules and Guidelines](#) and the [Application Form](#). Begin thinking about who you will ask for a reference; you may submit more than one reference.
- 2) Fill out the [Application Form](#).
- 3) Request at least one teacher/mentor/advisor to fill out a [Reference Form](#). Note: a reference can be submitted in advance of the application.

### ***Eligibility:***

Applications for the Essay Competition are invited from students in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> who are in good standing and who have a 3.0 minimum GPA in any school within a South Florida School District as of December 18, 2008. This competition is not open to immediate family and relatives of paid members of HALO or its Executive Board members. Previous essay competition winners may not reapply the year immediately following their award.

Students in good standing are those who have no more than two absences per quarter and no indoor/outdoor suspensions during the school year.