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Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy Wins National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program's YouTube Video Contest

*Five Cadets from Fort McCoy Win Scholarships, Trip to National Guard Youth
Foundation's Sixth Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Jan. 11, 2011 — The National Guard Youth Foundation (NGYF) today announced it has selected the Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy of Fort McCoy as the winner of its [YouTube Video ChalleNGe](#) within the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. The NGYF designed the contest to engage cadets to creatively share their personal experiences and discuss how the ChalleNGe Program has changed their lives. The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is a voluntary program that helps at-risk youth earn their high school diploma or general equivalency degree. Through structured training, individualized classes and mentorship, the program helps combat the high school dropout epidemic in this country, which stands at 1.3 million — or one in three — youths each year.

The [Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy submission](#) was one of 20 videos submitted by programs around the country. Each submission was published on the contest's YouTube Channel, which received more than 8,500 views upon the close of the contest on Jan. 7. The five cadets who created the winning video used an Ultra HD Flip Video provided by Microsoft to shoot footage in keeping with the theme "Dreaming to Achieving Through

ChalleNGe.” Each cadet — Paul Becker of Saukville, Devan A. Farnsworth of Madison, Taylor Jean O. Maciosek of Millidore, Denzel J. Parker of Milwaukee and Michael G. Schiffer of West Salem — will receive a Flip Video, a \$2,000 scholarship and a trip to the Sixth Annual ChalleNGe Champions Gala in Washington, D.C. The Wisconsin ChalleNGe Academy will also receive a \$5,000 scholarship and may keep the Flip Video it received at the beginning of the contest.

“We created the YouTube Video ChalleNGE Contest to bring awareness to the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program in a heartfelt and creative way,” said Gail Dady, president of the National Guard Youth Foundation board of directors. “We are so proud of those cadets who openly shared their personal struggles and successes through our program. They are living testaments to the power of a second chance and their commitment and perseverance continues to inspire us.”

Added Dady, “It is our hope that by communicating the benefits to society of giving even one young person the opportunity to turn their life around, that we’ll gain the support necessary to expand our program to bring our resources, expertise and guidance to more young adults in need.”

The National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program is a 17-month voluntary program with a 5.5-month residential phase and 12-month mentoring phase. There are 33 program sites in 27 states and Puerto Rico. Since its inception in 1993, nearly 100,000 students have graduated from the Program — 91 percent of which have earned their high school diploma, general equivalency degree or returned to high school.

About the National Guard Youth Foundation

The National Guard Youth Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The mission of the National Guard Youth Foundation is to foster program awareness, advocate for the program goals and funding, and provide scholarships, training and workforce transition assistance to the graduates of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program. In cooperation with the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, the Foundation assists youths who drop out of secondary school to improve their life skills, education and employment, creating the next generation of skilled workforce in America. The Honorary Board of Directors is co-chaired by President George H.W. Bush and Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA). For more information about the National Guard Youth Foundation, please visit www.ngyf.org.

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