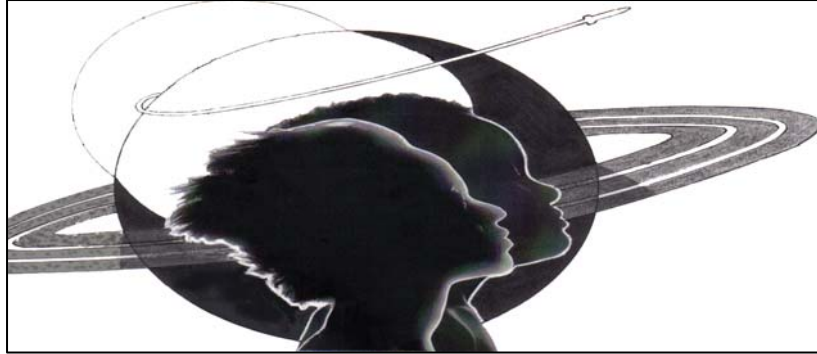


- PRESS RELEASE -



VISIONS OF SCIENCE NETWORK FOR LEARNING LAUNCHES
**IMAGINE: FIRST ANNUAL SCI-FI/FANTASY SHORT STORY
CONTEST FOR BLACK YOUTH**

MARCH 11 2006

Visions of Science, a non-profit organization aimed at raising awareness amongst black youth on issues of science and technology, is proud to launch IMAGINE, a sci-fi/fantasy short story contest for youth.

The IMAGINE contest challenges aspiring young authors to use their creative vision to invent futuristic or fantastic landscapes where ethnic minorities are protagonists, or feature dominantly. Although the contest targets black students, all contestants are welcome to compete regardless of ethnicity or race.

Founder of Visions of Science Francis Jeffers says the contest is complementary to the goals of the Organization, "Science and Science-fiction should be as accessible to blacks as to any one else. Our main goal is to de-mystify science and technology to our kids, so they embrace opportunities to become scientists, producers and manufacturers of technology, and in this case science-fiction writers."

Meanwhile producer of the contest Nicole Georges-Bennett urges students to participate in the contest, "If you love sci-fi or fantasy movies and books, and love to make up your own stories, this is a great opportunity to show off your imagination. Be as wild and creative as you like! That's what we're looking for."

The contest runs from April 1st to May 5th in two categories: Kids grade 6-8, and Young Adults grades 9-12. The entries will be processed by a nomination committee and adjudged by a two-person panel led by black sci-fi author Luanga Nuwame.

First prize is \$200.00, second prize \$100.00 third prize \$50.00 in each category. Contest rules and regulations can be found on www.visionsofscience.ca. The winners will receive their awards at the Visions of Science annual symposium on May 20th.

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