



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 21, 2019**

## **WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN ILLINOIS TOLLWAY 2020 MAP COVER ART CONTEST**

*Bolingbrook High School artist's work honoring Illinois State Police selected as grand prize winner*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway today announced that Syrena Feustel, a senior at Bolingbrook High School, is the grand prize winner of the 2020 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest honoring the service and sacrifice of the Illinois State Police.

“Being part of this contest is a huge opportunity for my work to be recognized,” said Syrena Feustel. “Having the ability to represent Illinois and Bolingbrook High School in this occasion gives me encouragement to continue creating and designing.”

The annual contest is sponsored by the Illinois Tollway, Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate Services Inc. (MBRE). Students selected as runners-up in the contest include:

- First runner-up – Courtney Kurtz, Lincoln-Way West High School in New Lenox
- Second runner-up – Spencer Kick, The Chicago Academy for the Arts
- Third runner-up – Colby O'Dell from Plainfield East High School

“Syrena’s winning artwork will serve as a reminder of the integrity, service and pride of the Illinois State Police troopers who are dedicated to ensuring safe travel on the Illinois Tollway,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We are pleased to showcase the excellent artwork created at schools throughout Northern Illinois and recognize the talent and creativity of the students and their teachers.”

In the wake of the tragic loss of a string of Illinois State troopers in the line of duty, including two who died serving the Illinois Tollway, the 2020 map cover art contest recognizes the distinguished work done by the Illinois State Police patrolling Tollways and state highways, protecting and assisting drivers despite the risks they face themselves.

This year more than 70 student artists from more than 20 high schools throughout Northern Illinois submitted artwork in the contest, and more than 17,000 votes by members of the general public were cast online and via Facebook and Instagram for 10 semifinalists to identify the four finalists. The overall winner and runners-up were determined by a panel of judges including representatives from the Illinois Tollway, Illinois State Police and MBRE.

“We thank the students for using their artistic talents and creativity to honor the brave troopers serving the State of Illinois,” said Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly. “Students submitted some outstanding artwork that conveys positive and uplifting messages about the Illinois State Police Troopers who continue to protect and assist the drivers of Illinois despite the risks they face every day.”

The Illinois Tollway launched the Map Cover Art Contest in 2011 to highlight the work of talented art students from the communities served by the Illinois Tollway. Artwork created by the grand prize winner is featured on the cover of the Tollway’s annual map, which is distributed at no cost to approximately 75,000 customers. The grand prize winner and three runners-up are also featured in the Tollway’s annual report. Awards include:

- Grand prize winner: \$400 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$200 in gift certificates from MBRE to use at oases retail shops and restaurants
- Runners-up: \$200 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from MBRE
- A certificate of appreciation for all students who participate in the contest

"Blick is pleased to continue its support of the Illinois Tollways annual art contest," said Blick Art Materials Chief Executive Bob Buchsbaum. "There are too few opportunities for visual artists to gain the recognition they deserve, and this contest is a great way to encourage and support the efforts of young artists. We congratulate the winner and all the runners-up and wish them great success as they continues to develop their artistic skills."

"MB Real Estate congratulates the design winners and thanks all those artists that submitted designs for this year's art contest," said MBRE Operations Manager Steve Meral. "It's such an encouragement to have high school artists involved in the design process that recognizes the work done by the Illinois State Police troopers."

### **About Blick Art Materials**

Founded in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1911, Blick Art Materials is one of the largest and oldest providers of art supplies in the United States, with 66 retail stores nationwide. Its products cater to the full spectrum of artists – from the youngest child ready to scribble with his or her first crayon to well-known, gallery-represented professionals. The company's extensive selection, competitive prices and superior customer service make Blick the best choice for art educators, students, artists, architects, designers, hobbyists or anyone requiring quality art materials for work or pleasure. A long-time advocate of art education in the U.S., Blick also provides support of scholastic, collegiate and professional art shows, both financially and through a variety of materials that emphasize the benefits of art education. Blick also supports the communities in which it does business by sponsoring in-store events, local schools, art leagues and community groups across the country. Visit [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com) for more information.

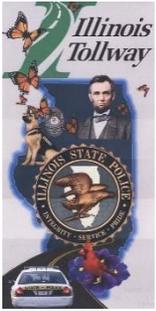
### **About MB Real Estate Services Inc.**

Founded in 1982, MB Real Estate is a full-service real estate organization that provides multifaceted expertise in Asset/Facilities Management; Leasing Services; Project/Construction Management; Tenant Representation and Investment Services. Additionally, MBRE Healthcare provides comprehensive real estate solutions for hospitals, health systems and physicians throughout the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, with regional offices in New York, Atlanta, Orlando, Dallas and Denver, MB Real Estate provides these services to corporations, institutions, professional organizations, private investors and non-profit agencies. For more information, please visit [mbres.com](http://mbres.com).

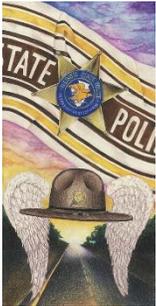
### **About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

**2020 Illinois Tollway Map Cover Art Contest winners**



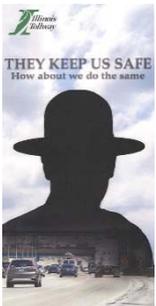
Grand Prize Winner – Syrena Feustel, Bolingbrook High School



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