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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Students Named Finalists for 2019 National Braille Challenge

Students to Attend National Competition in Los Angeles

Columbus, OH – June 13, 2019 – Two local students who competed at the Ohio Regional Braille Challenge in March have been chosen as finalists for the coveted Braille Institute of America Braille Challenge Finals, held in Los Angeles June 21-22, 2019.

MaKenzie Love and Philip Sotak from the Columbus area competed at Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired on March 1, where they took first and second place respectively in the sophomore category. Love also took home the Clovernook Proofreading Prize for receiving the highest proofreading score.

Fifty finalists will move on to the national challenge at the University of Southern California representing the top scorers from all of the regional competitions.

At the national competition, contests are organized by grade level, with participants testing in five skills contests – demonstration of braille reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading, and tactile graphics.

The Braille Institute of America Braille Challenge Finals is the only national reading and writing contest in braille for students who are blind and visually impaired. This event gives braille readers a chance to reach a personal best score and meet new friends going through similar life challenges.

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About Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Since 1903, Clovernook Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired has provided life-enriching opportunities and empowered people who are blind or visually impaired to be self-sufficient and full participants in their communities. Adult programs and youth activities, as well as arts and recreation departments, provide critical services to those who need it. Clovernook Center's Braille Printing House is the largest volume producer of braille in the world. It prints books,

magazines and other materials for the National Library Services and braille patrons worldwide while providing employment opportunities for blind and visually impaired individuals. For more information, visit www.clovernook.org.

About Braille Institute of America

Braille Institute of America is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate barriers to a fulfilling life caused by blindness and severe sight loss. It serves tens of thousands of people of all ages each year through an array of integrated educational, social and recreational programs and services designed to help people with vision loss lead enriched and fulfilling lives. Funded entirely by private donations, all services are completely free-of-charge. For additional information, please visit www.braillechallenge.org. or www.brailleinstitute.org. Follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/brailleinstitute> and on Twitter @BrailleInst.

Photo cutline

Photo ID – Braille Challenge 21: Students in the sophomore category, Philip Sotak from Westerville, MaKenzie Love from Commercial Point, and Perseus Decker from Newark, celebrate their wins at the Ohio Regional Braille Challenge.