

## Student picked in fur-free contest

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Art Institute of Portland student Melissa Collins will represent Oregon in this year's Cool vs. Cruel fashion-design contest.

The event, sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States, encourages design students across the nation to produce fur-free, animal-friendly fashions.

Collins, one of 15 finalists nationwide, created a faux-fur-trimmed coat with a collar that can be worn multiple ways, said a spokeswoman for the HSUS.

"Her creation was not only animal friendly, but also environmentally friendly. All of the fabrics used are sustainable to the point that they don't even need to be dry cleaned. And no fabrics were derived from animals," said Annie Judah of the HSUS.

Hundreds of students at 32 art institutes across the country competed in the contest, which will be judged this week. The grand prize is a trip to New York City on Nov. 16 for the award ceremony; an internship with a fashion designer and a position in a national traveling show promoting fur-free fashion.

-- *Carol McAlice Currie*

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