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(Bradenton, Fla., February 3, 2015) – State College of Florida Collegiate School (SCFCS) student Laura Whalen has been chosen to participate in the 2015 Embracing Our Differences exhibit.

Whalen's artwork, "Don't Be Mean – Be Green," will be enlarged to 16 feet by 32 feet and displayed in the outdoor exhibit March 29 through May 31 at Bradenton's Riverwalk, 808 Third Ave. W., and Sarasota's Island Park, One Marina Plaza. Whalen is in the ninth grade at SCFCS.

"I created four different areas in my picture. In the three green areas there are diverse items that we accept like different architecture, art supplies and food. In the last red section, there are many different people. It is red because we haven't learned to accept people. So – Don't be Mean – Go Green," said Whalen in her artist's statement.

The exhibit features 39 billboard-size images created by local, national and international artists, writers and students offering their interpretations of the theme: enriching lives through diversity.

This year's exhibit includes artwork from students in Manatee and Sarasota counties and in places as diverse and far away as Santa Clara, Calif.; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Kuwait City, Kuwait; and Sydney, Australia.