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LOCAL AUTHOR NEEDS VOTES TO ADVANCE TO NEXT LEVEL IN INTERNATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION

Billings author Shelley Hayes is among only 271 of the 2800 submitted authors to advance to the second round of “The Next Top Author Competition”, an international writing competition. The first round of voting attracted over 82,000 votes from 132 countries. Hayes has excelled to round two of the competition. The winner of the four-round competition will receive a book contract with Hampton Roads Publishing. Contestants advance by promoting their manuscripts through video pitches, book proposals assessed by a panel of experts, creative promotions and votes from the public and the publishing company.

Hayes is a Certified Life and Leadership Coach and founder and President of Diamond Principle, LLC. She entered the contest with her manuscript, *You Throw Like a Girl!*, a children’s book about Chelsea and her crew of best friends who teach Janie, the new girl on the block, how to enjoy a good old-fashioned game of summertime baseball, even though Janie has been teased, taunted and told she “throws like a girl.” Chelsea and crew help their new friend reframe this kind of negative stereotype, which has beaten down boys and girls of all ages for too long. Hayes is beginning a movement for parents, teachers, coaches, kids, and anyone else interested in empowering our youth by educating them about the power of their words and thoughts. “I’m honored by the outpouring of support for my book,” says Hayes. “It’s wonderful that people who believe in its message can actively help make it a reality.”

Hayes has even received support from famed authors Ken Blanchard and Marshall Goldsmith, as well as Southwest Airlines President Emeritus, Colleen Barrett. All three have backed Hayes’ movement by participating in an “I throw like a girl” video.

To make your own “I throw like a girl” video, learn more about the “You Throw Like a Girl!” movement, or to vote for Hayes in Round 2 of the Competition, visit www.youthrowlikeagirlbook.com. Voting for Round 2 ends June 28th.

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