



## **GULF COAST STUDENTS WIN BIG AT STATE STEM COMPETITION**

**(San Antonio, TX)** – La Villita Assembly Building in San Antonio’s historic Riverwalk district welcomes all kinds of crowds, from sports fans to wedding parties. On Saturday, April 8th, 2017, however, the building played host to something new: wind turbines.

The turbines were built during the Engineering Design Challenge portion of the 32nd STEM Competition, an annual event organized by the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME). This year’s competition, sponsored by Boeing and hosted by CPS Energy, brought 293 Texas students, grades 6 – 12, to San Antonio to test their skills in math, science, and engineering in both individual and collaborative challenges. For the design challenge, student teams were given simple materials (like paper and dowels), a time limit, and a task: to build turbine blades to effectively capture wind power.

TAME's annual State STEM Competition is the focus of a year of intense preparation for Texas students in TAME clubs around the state. TAME students from grades 6-12 qualified to attend the event at one of 14 Divisional STEM Competitions.

At the State Competition, the top six students in each test and the top six teams in the engineering design challenge were recognized with awards and medals. In addition, three teams received special awards for creativity, teamwork, and innovation. Siddhant Puranik, a student from Obra D. Tompkins High School in Katy, designed the winning artwork for the event shirts and programs. TAME's Outstanding Senior Award, sponsored by Shell Oil Company, was presented to Elisabeth Medina, a high school senior from Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio. Medina plans to attend the University of Chicago and earn a degree in astrophysics.

The STEM Competitions, part of TAME’s multi-pronged STEM engagement strategy, celebrate diversity and achievement in STEM and encourage the development of a peer and mentor network. Thanks to the support of a number of sponsors, gratefully acknowledged below, the events are offered free of charge to all participants.

While full-scale wind turbines are unlikely to be constructed at the Riverwalk any time soon, the STEM Competition makes one thing clear: whatever tomorrow’s energy sources look like, Texas students will be ready to work on them.

All winners were honored with trophies or medals and all participants received a variety of door prizes and giveaways thanks to the event sponsors listed below.

**We are thrilled to announce that 33 students from the Gulf Coast Chapter competed in the event.**

The following students placed in the competition:

### **Clear Lake High School:**

Steven Wu: 2nd Place - 10th Grade Math & Science Test, 5th Place - Engineering Design Challenge

Xiangwei Chen: 2nd Place - 12th Grade Math & Science Test

### **Hastings Club:**

Joseph Nagera: Creativity Award - Engineering Design Challenge

### **Holland Middle School:**

Nevan Ratanji: 3rd Place - Engineering Design Challenge



### **NSBE Jr. South Houston**

Kamari Jones: Innovation Award - Engineering Design Challenge

### **T&T Club:**

Joshua Karim: 5th Place - 8th Grade Math & Science Test

Adrian Ng: 6th Place - 8th Grade Math & Science Test

Siddhant Puranik: "Behind the Next Big Thing" Design Contest Award; 5th Place - 10th Grade Math & Science Test

### **Young Women's College Prep Academy:**

Naylie Leal: 1st Place - Engineering Design Challenge

Naizeth Leal: 2nd Place - Engineering Design Challenge

Sadie Randall: Team Work Award - Engineering Design Challenge

The State STEM Competition is organized by The Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1976 that enables Texas students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). In addition to testing student knowledge of math and science concepts, the competition promotes teamwork, leadership, and academic achievement.

For more awards, photos, statistics, and stories from the competition, visit [TAME.org/Compete](http://TAME.org/Compete). Contact the TAME program coordinators at [programs@tame.org](mailto:programs@tame.org) if you have any questions or comments.

**The 2017 State STEM Competition was sponsored by the following organizations.**

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