



## VALLEY 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 11 students from the Valley Chapter competed in the event.**

The following students placed in the competition:

### **Barrientes Middle School:**

Aaron Guerrero: 2nd Place - 6th Grade Math & Science Test

Jaqueline Ochoa: 4th Place - 7th Grade Math & Science Test

Lynsey Torres: 4th Place - Engineering Design Challenge

### **Elias Longoria Middle School:**

Francisco Espinoza: 5th Place - 6th Grade Math & Science Test

### **Harwell Middle School:**

Jorge Roman: 2nd Place - 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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