



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harmony School of Science-Sugar Land 9th Graders Named State Winners in the 14th Annual eCYBERMISSION STEM Competition

U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program Provides a National Platform for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

HOUSTON, TX – Monday, May 02, 2016 – The U.S. Army announced **Harmony School of Science-Sugar Land 9th graders Oliva Tran and Catherine Nguyen** as the **1st** state winning team in the 14th annual [eCYBERMISSION](#) competition – one of several science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives offered by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP).

eCYBERMISSION, sponsored by the U.S. Army and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), is a web-based STEM competition free to students. Designed to inspire student interest in STEM, eCYBERMISSION challenges students in grades six through nine to develop solutions to real-world problems in their local communities.

Students compete on state, regional, and national levels for up to \$9,000 in U.S. EE Savings Bonds, valued at maturity.

Olivia Tran, and Catherine Nguyen worked together with Harmony Public Schools team advisor **Farha Ahmed** to study **Genetics: Probability and Pedigree**. Student teams submit their official project through the eCYBERMISSION website to be evaluated and scored by a panel of volunteer virtual judges. State winning 1st place teams receive \$1,000 per student in U.S. EE Savings Bonds.

“The U.S. Army is very proud of the students that have accepted the challenge to this STEM competition in efforts to improve their communities,” said Louie R. Lopez, AEOP Cooperative Agreement Manager. “Congratulations to all the state winning teams and we encourage students to continue along the path of creativity and innovation.”

“We are delighted with all the amazing projects that came through this year,” said Dr. Carolyn Hayes, NSTA President. “We congratulate the state winners and commend all of the team advisors for investing time in their students to help make a real difference in the world around them.”

In the next round of the eCYBERMISSION competition, a panel of virtual judges will evaluate the top three scores from each region in each grade level. Sixty regional finalist teams will compete to advance as one of 20 national finalists, moving on to compete at the National Judging and Educational Event (NJ&EE)—June 20-24 in Washington, D.C.

About Army Educational Outreach Program

The AEOP Cooperative Agreement was formed by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) and includes Virginia Tech as the lead organization, the Academy of Applied Science, American Society for Engineering Education, the Technology Student Association, the University of New Hampshire and NSTA. AEOP is charged with addressing national needs for a STEM literate citizenry through a portfolio of educational opportunities which includes unique experiences, competitions, and

high school internships that aim to spark an interest in STEM and encourage participants to pursue college and careers in STEM fields. The Army is committed to increasing the STEM talent pool in order to ensure our national security and global competitiveness. For more information on AEOP, visit www.usaeop.com.

About eCYBERMISSION

Sponsored by the U.S. Army, eCYBERMISSION—a web-based competition that is free to students—is one of several science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives offered by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP). Designed to inspire student interest in STEM, eCYBERMISSION challenges students in grades six through nine to develop solutions to real-world problems in their local communities. NSTA administers the Army's eCYBERMISSION competition for the AEOP as part of the Battelle Consortium formed by the AEOP cooperative agreement award to Battelle Memorial Institute.

About NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](http://www.nsta.org) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning for all. NSTA's current membership includes approximately 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business and industry representatives, and others involved in science education.

About Harmony Public Schools:

Harmony Public Schools are 46 high performing K-12 college preparatory charter schools throughout Texas. Harmony blends the highest standards and expectations, with a rigorous math and science-centered curriculum and dedicated and engaged teachers and families to cultivate excellence and prepare students to succeed in college, careers and life. To learn more about Harmony Public Schools and our 46 campuses across Texas, please visit www.harmonytx.org, and follow us on Twitter [@HarmonyEdu](https://twitter.com/HarmonyEdu) and “like” us on Facebook facebook.com/HarmonyTexas.

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