

# MATHCOUNTS®

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Mathletes® Match Skills at State Competition; Four Advance to National Competition in May Trying to Claim a Four Year Texas Sweep**

AUSTIN— Exercising their brainpower to solve math and logic problems, 286 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from around Texas participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas State MATHCOUNTS Competition today. Four of these Mathletes, and a teacher-coach, earned the chance to advance to 2010 Raytheon National MATHCOUNTS in Orlando, Florida on May 6-9 where Texas will try to win the title for the fourth consecutive time.

The top four students who will represent Texas at National MATHCOUNTS are: Patrick Pan from Westbrook Intermediate in Friendswood; Steven Chen from Canyon Vista Middle School in Austin; Brian Xu from Harmony School of Excellence in Houston; and Robert Tung from Rice Middle School in Plano. Their coach is Jeff Boyd from Fort Settlement Middle School in Sugar Land which was the top-scoring MATHCOUNTS team for 2010.

Governor Rick Perry addressed the students, coaches and parents on the importance of programs such as MATHCOUNTS that offer students a competitive academic environment. Following his talk he was given the opportunity to observe the final portion of the competition – a fast paced one-on-one timed event posing the tenth place student against the 9<sup>th</sup> place until the final round determined the #1 student. Governor Perry assisted in presenting the awards to the top 10 competitors and presented the top four students to the audience as the 2010 Texas National Team.

The 5<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> place scoring individuals are: Zachary Tu from Fort Settlement Middle School in Sugar Land; Victor Zhou from Rice Middle School in Plano; Siddharth Seethepalli from Beckendorff Junior High in Katy; Paul Cruz from Harmony School of Excellence in Houston; Mitchell Hwang from Fort Settlement Middle School in Sugar Land; and Angie Rao from Fort Settlement Middle School in Sugar Land.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> place team rankings were: Harmony School of Excellence from Houston; Canyon Vista Middle School from Austin; First Colony Middle School from Sugar Land; and Westbrook Intermediate from Friendswood.

For over twenty-six years, Texas has supported MATHCOUNTS—a national math coaching and competition program designed to increase enthusiasm and enhance achievement in middle school mathematics—because it fosters the highly advanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills that today’s students will need to become tomorrow’s leaders and innovators and help keep Texas competitive in an increasingly technology-driven economy.

The program—which is organized in Texas by TSPE and staffed by member volunteers—also demonstrates the power of cooperation between private practice and industry. Raytheon, Shell, 3M, The Sid Richardson Foundation, The Texas Education Agency, Texas Instruments and the Cockrell School of Engineering support the program financially, and speakers from Raytheon and Shell shared what they do now and how their math and science skills have helped them innovate and succeed in their careers.

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