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JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL, RILEY CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL EARN TOP HONORS AT SECOND ANNUAL OREGON GAME PROJECT CHALLENGE

Portland, Oregon, May 19, 2009 – The second annual Oregon Game Project Challenge (ogpc) is in the history books with a new high school champion and a successful new middle school competition. Jesuit High School’s “File Not Found” team took the first place champion award in the high school division, and Riley Creek Middle School’s “Team Banana” traveled from Gold Beach, Oregon to Salem to earn the first place champion award in the middle school division. TechStart Education Foundation, Oregon University System, Software Association of Oregon, and the Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association hosted 41 teams from schools around the state at Chemeketa Community College in Salem for the Saturday, May 16 competition. Sixteen teams were honored with awards for their computer games designed to educate and propose solutions to water resource issues.

“Students presented games that we could easily see in commercial distribution today,” said Chris Brooks, President of the TechStart Board of Directors. “We will continue to promote computer science competitions like the game project challenge when students come out in numbers like this and exceed our expectations like every participant did this weekend.”

About ogpc 2.0

Oregon Game Project Challenge, in its second year, is a competition that brings together teams of 4-7 students and introduces or nurtures their interest in computer science. The ogpc competition season runs from December to May each year, concluding with the statewide tournament in Salem. Both high school and middle school teams compete by presenting original computer games to nearly 50 judges from local technology industry that are designed to be fun, challenging and innovative.

Games were judged based on the following criteria:

- The depth and breadth of research the team does on this year's theme.
- How well the game was designed.
- The extent to which the team collaborated on the design
- The quality of the presentation that the team makes at the tournament.
- How well the game incorporates the annual theme.
- Advanced use of technology or programming features.

For more information about TechStart and the ogpc competition visit <http://www.techstart.org/ogpc>.

ogpc 2.0 Results - High School Division:

Champion Award

1st Place: Team “File Not Found”, Jesuit High School

2nd Place: Team “PHRED”, Philomath High School

3rd Place: Team “Rogue Myth”, Lincoln High School

Rookie Award
Omicron - Union High School

Teamwork Award
1st Place: Team “Cat Box”, Tigard High School
2nd Place: Team “Technical Difficulties”, Sunset High School

Presentation Award
1st Place: Team “Dragonflight Game Studios”, Cougar Creek High School (Vancouver)
2nd Place: Team “Kalamari”, Sunset High School

Game Experience Award
1st Place: Team “Quantum Storm”, Tigard High School
2nd Place: Team “The Pogs”, North Bend High School

Programming Award
1st Place: Team “Everyone Else”, Sunset High School
2nd Place: Team “Kitten Omega Programming”, Sherwood High School

Game Research and Development
1st Place: Team “Team Cobra”, North Salem High School
2nd Place: Team “RW Squared”, Sweet Home High School

ogpc 2.0 Results - Middle School Division:

Champion Award
1st Place: Team “Team Banana”, Riley Creek Middle School (Gold Beach)
2nd Place: Team “S.A.V.E.”, Waluga Middle School (Lake Oswego)

Teamwork Award
1st Place: Team “Fantastic Four”, Amity Middle School
2nd Place: Team “Project Cell”, Sherwood Middle School

Presentation Award
1st Place: Team “Flying Squirrels”, Riley Creek Middle School (Gold Beach)
2nd Place: Team “A.Q.U.A.”, Ashbrook Independent School (Corvallis)

Game Experience Award
1st Place: Team “Praetorian Gaming”, Sherwood Middle School
2nd Place: Team “Hmmm....A 4-H Team”, 4H Bend

Programming Award
1st Place: Team “Die Hydrogen Monoxide”, Sherwood Middle School
2nd Place: Team “The Nerd Herd”, Amity Middle School

Game Research & Development
1st Place: Team “Hurricanes”, Cheldelin Middle School (Corvallis)
2nd Place: Team “Smiley Faces ^_^”, Sherwood Middle School

About TechStart Education Foundation

The TechStart Education Foundation (www.techstart.org) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that was founded in

2003 by the Software Association of Oregon (<http://www.sao.org>), a trade association with more than 400 member organizations. TechStart strives to nurture a passion for all of technology among Oregon's K-12 students by promoting and supporting wider access to technology learning to transform how students learn, to sharpen their thinking and to influence their success beyond graduation. For more information about TechStart, contact Natasha MacDonald, Executive Director, at 503-228-5429.

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