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Over 4,000 Students and Educators Attend the 2011 National Technology Student Association Conference in Dallas, Texas

Technology Student Association (TSA) members nationwide attended the 2011 National TSA Conference in Dallas, Texas, June 21 – June 25, at the Gaylord Texan Resort. Student members competed in more than 60 competitive events based on principles and concepts learned through projects during the school year in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. The conference recognized the technological future of the nation with the theme “Snapshot of Innovation.”

High school and middle school technology students, guided by their chapter advisors, prepared throughout the school year to compete with their peers in STEM events such as Agriculture and Biotechnology, CAD, Construction Renovation, Video Game Design, Dragster Design, Engineering Design, Flight Endurance, Photographic Technology, Robotics and Transportation Modeling. Many attendees also participated in leadership sessions, designed to develop and enhance leadership skills through customized sessions. Other special interest sessions were presented by industry representatives and educators.

The first of four general sessions was held on Wednesday, June 22 and opened the conference with a “Parade of State Flags” ceremony and a keynote address given by National TSA Alumni, Rakesh Patel and Bart Slabbekorn. TSA partners with The American Cancer Society (ACS) for its national service project, and conference attendees participated in the TSA/ACS Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back commemorative event. Chapters and states were recognized for their ACS fundraising efforts throughout the year. Conference participants also attended the American League Champions, Texas Rangers, against the New York Mets in Dallas on Friday, June 24, 2011.

TSA, with partner IFI (Innovation First International), conducted the TSA VEX Robotics "Round Up" championship. The VEX Robotics Design System and competitions offer students an exciting platform for learning about areas rich with career opportunities spanning science, technology, engineering and math.

In addition, conference attendees were able to view the latest in technology innovation at the one-day Career and Education fair held on Thursday, June 24. Exhibitors included Intellitek, Inc., DS Solidworks Corporation, Goodheart-Willcox Publishers, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Stokes Educational Services, Teaching Systems, Inc. and Whitebox Learning

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The Technology Student Association (TSA) is a 150,000-member organization. Nearly 2,500 TSA technology teachers conduct TSA chapter programs in 47 states. TSA's goal is to promote technological literacy and leadership. Students learn problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking skills as they relate to communications, power, energy, transportation, engineering, manufacturing, construction and biotechnology. TSA is a non-profit education association with its national office at 1914 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Call 703 860-9000. Reach TSA on the web @ www.tsaweb.org.