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## Technology Student Association (TSA) Hosts National Conference

RESTON, VA – The Technology Student Association (TSA) recently hosted its 39<sup>th</sup> annual national conference.

Over 7,700 participants attended the national TSA conference, held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL in late June.

“This national TSA conference was particularly exciting because it provided TSA members with leadership training and engagement opportunities — both of which are essential when it comes to preparing tomorrow’s STEM leaders for college, the workforce, and beyond,” said Dr. Rosanne T. White, national TSA executive director. “Last year TSA members voted to change TSA’s motto to “Learning to lead in a technical world” — and they showed that they are learning to do just that at this year’s conference.”

More than 6,000 students competed in 67 STEM competitions such as 3D Animation, Coding, Forensic Technology, and Environmental Engineering. The national winners of the [Verizon Innovative App Challenge](#), administered by TSA, presented their winning mobile apps to conference attendees. Additionally, middle school teams competed in the Junior Solar Sprint competition, funded by the [Army Educational Outreach Program](#) (AEOP), where teams design, build, and race solar-powered vehicles. The new national TSA officer team for the 2017-2018 school year was also elected.

2017 marked the inaugural year for LEAP (Leadership. Education. Achievement. Personal Growth.), TSA’s leadership program, at the national level. Every high school competition included a leadership component, where TSA members tracked their leadership activities based on the *Student Leadership Challenge — Five Practices for Becoming an Exemplary Leader*®. Semifinalists were also interviewed on how they incorporated the *Five Practices*® into their preparation for competitions. LEAP Legacy Chapter national semifinalists, selected prior to the national TSA conference, competed at the Meet and Greet, and the [winning chapters](#) received trophies and cash prizes for their chapters on stage at the awards ceremony. Additionally, TSA advisors and middle school and high school members attended customized leadership sessions where they delved into the *Student Leadership Challenge*® and the LEAP program.

This is the fifth year that the national Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAMS) competition has been held in conjunction with the national TSA conference. More than 700 students competed at the national level, which involved writing essays, giving oral presentations, and designing hands-on solutions to problem-solving scenarios centered around the theme “Engineering the Environment.” A complete list of finalists can be found on the [TEAMS website](#).

Award winners were recognized on stage at the awards ceremony, held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. A complete list of finalists for every event can be found [here](#).

More information on TSA is available on the TSA website at [www.tsaweb.org](http://www.tsaweb.org).