



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Oklahoma eCYBERMISSION Student Team Attend the 2013 White House Science Fair**

**ARLINGTON, Va. — Tuesday, May 14, 2013** — Four students and their teacher from Jenks, Okla. were selected to attend the third annual White House Science Fair on Monday, April 22, 2013. The 2012 eCYBERMISSION National Finalist team, known as TApossibility, used scientific inquiry to identify a problem in their community around the use of energy, showed how their school could benefit from making "greener choices" and worked to raise student public awareness about energy efficiency.

Sponsored by the U.S. Army and administered by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the eCYBERMISSION competition 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, the program challenges students in grades six through nine to develop solutions to real-world problems in their local communities. Students compete for state, regional and national awards.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who attended the Fair are Hayden Hilst, Riya Kaul, and Rebecca (Becca) Mackey from Jenks East Intermediate School. They became a team in the competition because of their commitment to preserving the environment. Their teacher, Manju Kaul, was their mentor and traveled to Washington, DC to accompany the students.

“We are honored that these students had the opportunity to participate in the White House Science Fair and be part of the national conversation on STEM education,” said Dr. David Evans, NSTA’s Executive Director.

Through the eCYBERMISSION program, teams of three to four students are asked to identify an issue in their community related to one of seven mission challenges, including:

- alternative sources of energy;
- the environment; food, health and fitness;
- force and motion;
- national security and safety;
- robotics; and
- technology.

After selecting a mission challenge, teams—under the guidance of a team advisor—apply the scientific method/inquiry or engineering design process to propose a solution. Each team then submits a mission folder, the official write-up of their project, via the eCYBERMISSION website. A panel of virtual judges evaluates and scores the mission folders on the basis of several criteria to identify state winning teams. The state winning teams then move on to the regional competition, where they compete with other teams in their grade across the region for an all-expenses paid trip to the National Judging and Educational Event in June.

**T Apos sibi lity's Proj ec t Abstract** (in the student's words from their Mission Folder):  
*Our Mission Folder explored the benefits of using technologically advanced, energy and water efficiency devices in our school. We used Scientific Inquiry to identify our problem, develop our hypotheses and collect data. Our first step was to look at a "model LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified high school building" high in energy efficiency. Based on this information, we were going to recommend "greener choices" for our school. In our research, we were surprised to find that our school had already made many of these changes. We then shifted our focus to look at cost savings to the school from using energy efficient light bulbs and water conserving toilets. We learned and used mathematical analysis to do this. We realized these two changes had led to significant cost savings to the school and also left a much smaller carbon footprint on the environment.*

*Since we were unaware of the green changes in our school, we expanded our research to design and administer a survey for students and teachers to test their awareness of these changes. We found that most of the students and teachers were unaware of the energy saving modifications made by the school. We concluded that students should be educated about energy conservation in their school. The students can then apply this knowledge to their personal lives and communities. The school is the perfect place for the leaders of tomorrow to learn how to take care of their planet today.*

For more information about the eCYBERMISSION competition, visit [www.ecybermission.com](http://www.ecybermission.com) or contact Mission Control at 1-866-GO-CYBER (462-9297) or via email at [missioncontrol@ecybermission.com](mailto:missioncontrol@ecybermission.com)

### ***About Army Educational Outreach Program***

The Youth Science Cooperative Outreach Agreement (YSCOA) consortium 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 of Engineering Education, the Technology Student Association, the University of New Hampshire and, new member, 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](http://www.usaeop.com).

### ***About RDECOM***

RDECOM is the U.S. Army's primary source of integrated research, development and engineering capabilities that empower, unburden and protect the American Soldier to enable the dominance of the U.S. Army. RDECOM provides the full spectrum of basic research, development, engineering and analysis of Soldier systems, from concept to capability. RDECOM is headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., with laboratories and research and development centers throughout the country and representatives throughout the world. For more information on RDECOM, visit [www.army.mil/rdecom](http://www.army.mil/rdecom).

***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.

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