



PRESS RELEASE

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**MORRISS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL “YOUNG CHAMPS” ROBOTICS TEAM
NAMED GRAND CHAMPION AT
FIRST LEGO LEAGUE ROBOTICS QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT**

Texarkana, TX – During the recently held First Lego League Robotics Qualifying Tournament on the University of Texas at Arlington campus, six very excited young engineers waited patiently for their names to be called.

Then finally, at the very end, they heard their names along with the title of GRAND CHAMPION. “When we were in the room and they called us up as grand champions, that was just so exciting for me,” commented Cole Christen, 5th grade student at Martha and Josh Morriss Mathematics & Engineering Elementary School and member of the Young Champs robotics team. Eagerly looking ahead, he added, “I can’t wait to go to the next round and then to Missouri to win Grand Champion at the national competition.”

Fellow team member, Eden Pitre, shared, “since it was my first year being in a competition, I was hoping that I would do everything right and not mess up on anything. I was really excited, nervous and scared at the same time.”

Morriss Elementary School was well represented during this year’s qualifying event with seven teams entering the competition. Five teams took First thru Third Place awards, one team was named as alternate and the remaining team named Grand Champion. “I am very pleased that we were able to take forty-two students to this robotics competition. It was the largest group that we have ever had,” said Rick Sandlin, Principal. “Not only was participating in this event a great experience for our students but having the opportunity to see and tour the UT-Arlington campus was wonderful for them.”

The seven teams from Morriss Elementary School along with placement and team members are:



Young Champs – Grand Champions - Blaire Berry, Cole Christen, Hayden Hackett, Derius Phillips, Eden Pitre, Landon Ryden.

Terrific Texans – 1st Place Project – Madison Brown, Kevin Jacob, Hannah Klein, Craig Kline, Alec Rommel.

Brain Stormers – 2nd Place Robot Design - Austin Broussard, Jeremy Camp, Claire Doan, Zoe Lovett, Sophie Lower, Emily McMaster, Jake Weems, Nathan Whittington.

Lego Lightninz – 2nd Place Project – Colt Bradford, Gracson Byrd, Kate-Lynn Harmon, Gage McDonald, Anna Morgan, Sara Ottinger.

Robo Rulers – 2nd Place Robot Game - Makenzie Blasé, Craig Crawford, Nick Graves, Riley Hamilton, Abbott Lawrence, Davis Sutton.

Robo Claws – 3rd Place Project – Chandler Bursey-Reece, Briley Court, Braylee Hagan, Dalton McBride, Mya Reid.

Flame Throwers – Alternate - Kylie Chamblee, Jasmine Franklin, Connor Howell, Kaylea Knighton, Jillian Ross, Luke Stroud.

Coaches for the teams were: Melanie Allen, Tonja Blasé, Erin Davis, Amy Frierson, Meredith Hale, Shannon Kirkland and Jessica Kline.

Teams participating in the 2010 Body Forward Challenge explored the cutting-edge world of Biomedical Engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome genetic predispositions and maximize the body's potential, with the intended purpose of leading happier and healthier lives. Each First Lego League Challenge has two parts – the Robot Game and the Project.

For the Robot Game, teams build and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to score points in 2.5-minute matches on a themed playing field. For Project, teams explore an actual problem that today's scientists and engineers are trying to solve. They then, develop an innovative solution to the problem, either by creating something that doesn't exist or building upon something that does, and share their findings.

Placing teams will now move on to the North Texas First Lego League State Competition. If successful on the state level, they will advance to the 2011 World Festival in St. Louis, Missouri.

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