



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 14, 2011

**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**TEXAS MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAMS  
TAKE TOP TEN SPOTS & MORE IN TCEA COMPETITION**

**Texarkana, TX** – Texas Middle School robotics teams took top ten spots and more during the recent Regional Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) held on Saturday, December 10 at the University of Texas at Tyler.

Each year, TCEA offer students the opportunity to compete in a prescribed problem contest as well as an open-ended invention contest. Students use marketing, programming, writing, constructing and presentation skills to find a solution for a problem of their choice.

Over 82 teams in from Region VII and Region VIII competed in the event. 23 teams represented Region VIII and 16 teams participated in the Intermediate Arena category - 8 of those hailing from Texas Middle School.

Taking First Place were the **Robo Warriors** of Hayden Hackett and Elijah Lovett. Second Place was secured by **Team Turtle** members Jarrod Keck and Alex Markham. These two teams have now earned a guaranteed spot in the TCEA State Contest which will be held on April 14 in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

The **Robo Tigers** team of Zoe Lovett and Emily McMaster received Third Place; the **Tigerros** team of Jonathan Birl and Adolfo Camacho earned Fourth Place; and the **Lego Lightning** team of Anna Morgan and Sara Ottinger brought home Fifth Place.

Rounding at the top ten were team **Robo Warfare** with Austin Broussard and Gracson Byrd in Sixth Place; **NeatOBurrito** team of Paola Gabriel, Brooke Martin and Conor Nichols, in 9<sup>th</sup> Place; and the **Terrific T Bots** of Chris Arnold and Jeremy Camp in Eleventh Place.

Each of these teams will now have the opportunity, based upon competition scores, to earn a “wildcard” spot for the State competition. All teams were coached by Shannon Kirkland, Elementary Instructional Technology Specialist for the District and Megan Nichols, TMS Technology Applications teacher.

###