

June 12, 2012



Local students represent North Carolina at Future Problem Solving International Conference

“To find the best solutions, you must ask the right questions.” That was the theme for the 2012 Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP) Conference where students from the 36 states and the countries of Australia, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, China, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Turkey gathered at Indiana University, Bloomington to examine global issues related to pharmaceuticals.

Winning the NC FPSP State Championship for both junior (grades 4-6) and middle (grades 7-9) divisions of the Team Global Issues Problem Solving, students from Scholars' Academy, a local charter school, went on to represent North Carolina at the International Conference for the second consecutive year.

Seventh graders Alex Harrison, Claire Liu, Priyanka Tejwani and Charles Timm of the middle division competed against 66 teams spanning five continents, many of whom were ninth graders. The junior division team comprised of sixth graders Laura Scott Cary and Ceyda Guley and 5th graders Aarushi Patil and Sanjit Tatavarthy, along with alternates Rhea Bhagia and Evan Hemming, placed 6th overall for their Action Plan Presentation out of a field of 58 teams. Team alternates join other alternates in the multi-affiliate team competition. Seventh grader Ronak Bhagia, member of a multi-affiliate middle division team, placed 3rd overall while sixth grader Evan Hemming placed 2nd overall in the multi-affiliate junior division team competition.

FPSP encourages students *how to think, not what to think* by applying creative thinking and problem solving skills to global issues affecting our future. Annually students vote to determine topics from three strands – science and technology, business and economics and social and political issues. Recent topics include nanotechnology, invasive species, genetic engineering, coral reefs, human rights and trade barriers.

The North Carolina FPSP State Bowl competition took place April 19th – 20th followed by the International Conference from June 7th -10th.
