

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament Winners Announced

The Choctaw Tribal Schools held the 20<sup>th</sup> annual FIRST LEGO League Tournament January 28, 2023. FIRST LEGO League is a hands-on, interactive engineering program that captivates students' interest in science and technology as they learn problem solving and team building skills. Over one hundred students from the Choctaw Tribal Schools participated in this year's event.

### **The following awards were presented:**

#### **Robot Performance Award**

The Robot Performance Award was presented to Tucker T-bots representing Tucker Elementary School. Their robot achieved the best score on the competition field. Tucker T-bot team members include: Colsen Stell, Kanyon Tubby, Bryceton McMillan, Braeson Sam, Logan Denson, Madelyn Henry, Leim McMillan, A'ria McMillan, and Coach Jennifer Bounds

(Insert photo: Tucker T-bots)

#### **Robot Design Award**

This award recognizes a team that designs a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient and highly capable of performing challenge missions. The team utilizes outstanding programming principles, including clear, concise and reusable code that allows their robot to perform challenge missions autonomously and consistently. Solid engineering principles and a well-developed strategy is used to design and build an innovative, high performing robot. The Robot Design Award was presented to Bogue Chitto Elementary School's Smash Clan. Team members include: Brydon Baca, Neveah McCool, Chacelyn Dixon, Koree Thompson, Ameryn Robinson, Bentley Ray, Terry Bounds, Jzahn Conrad, Kamryn Hundley, and Coach Janice Franklin

(Insert Photo: Smash Clan)

#### **Innovation Project Award**

The Innovation Project Award was presented to Pearl River Elementary School's The Able Gamers Group II for their utilization of diverse resources to formulate an in depth and comprehensive understanding of the problem they identified. The team's solution is exceptionally well considered and creative, with good potential to solve the problem researched. This award recognizes a team that effectively communicated the problem and their proposed solution to both judges and other potential supporters. The Able Gamers Group II's team members include: Sherman Billie, Wyatt Chickaway, Nikolai Denson, Riley Meely, Khanzlee Richardson, Ameer Stell, Rainen Willis, and Coach Gloria Seward.

(Insert photo: The Able Gamers Group II)

### **FIRST LEGO League Core Values Award**

This award celebrates a team that is empowered by their FLL experience and displays extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit. They are able to accomplish more together than they could as individuals through shared goals, strong communication, effective problem solving, and excellent time management. This team's members show each other and other teams respect at all times. They recognize that both friendly competition and mutual gain are possible, on and off the playing field. The Core Values Award was presented to Standing Pine Elementary School's Native Pines. Native Pines team members include Tekhyius Primer, Kalyana Allen, Ansen McMillan, Jayden Hardy, Xavi Vargas, Daislin Isaac, Shaylee Alex, Cerulean Lewis, Grayson Tangle, Braden Sam, Milayla Shomo, Avia Thompson, Liliana Frazier, and Coach Amy Armstrong.

(Insert photo: Native Pines)

### **Champion's Award**

This award recognizes a team that embodies the FIRST LEGO League experience, by fully embracing our CORE Values while achieving excellence and innovation in both the Robot Game and Project. The Champion's Award was presented to Tucker Elementary School's Network Robot. Team members include: Eric Shumake, Jacoby Willis, Marshall Mingo, Esiason Willis, Cameron Gibson, Kollier Thomas, William Willis, CT Black, Damarii Sam, Reyana Robinson, Brodie McMillan, Devin Johnson, Braydon Tubby, and Coach Kristina Taylor.

(Insert photo: Network Robot)

The Network Robot will represent the Choctaw Tribal Schools at the FIRST LEGO® League Mississippi Championship in February 25, 2023.

A special thanks to Chief Ben and Dr. Grierson for offering words of encouragement and support, and to our volunteers who donated their time, energies, and talents to the Choctaw Tribal Schools' FIRST LEGO® League Tournament. Your contributions will have a lasting impact on our "Engineers of Tomorrow".

Robot Design Judges: Mr. Grant Gordon  
Ms. Paula Covarrubias

Project Presentation Judge: Mrs. Jessica Lewis  
Mr. Nicklaus Shumake

Core Values Judges: Ms. Mitzi Reed  
Mrs. Michelle Twiss

Robot Performance Referees: Mr. Wes Wallace  
Mr. Matt Bell

Event Master of Ceremonies: Ms. Alice Keats