McPherson Students Take First and Second at C-STEM Day Competitions

ORANGE, CA – June 4, 2014 – The McPherson "Proud C++ Students" won three awards this past Saturday at the U.C. Davis C-Stem Day competition held at University of California, Irvine (UCI).

McPherson won first place in Orange County for Robot Choreography, second place statewide in the Overall Programming Video Competition, and was unanimously rewarded by the judges with the Perseverance Award. The "Proud C++ Students" team consists of seventh graders Gino Angiuli, Grant MacDowall, Theo Aranyi, Lexie Gutierrez, Josh Crogan and Noah Evans.

C-Stem Day is an annual celebration of students' skills in programming, robotics and math. This year's C-Stem Day at UCI included two competitions: RoboPlay Video and RoboPlay Challenge.

The RoboPlay Video Competition was completed within the classroom and submitted online. It enabled students with different interests to explore the basic concepts of C-STEM in conjunction with their artistic and music talents. Students had the opportunity to express their creativity in writing, storytelling, art, music, choreography, design, and film making abilities while seamlessly integrating C-STEM subjects such as math and programming skills to control the robots.

The RoboPlay Challenge Competition was an all-day event held at the UCI campus. It was designed to let students to showcase their real-world problem solving skills in a competitive environment. The RoboPlay Challenge simulated an unexpected problem occurring at a remote location such as a space station or planetary habitat, where a robotic solution must be quickly developed and deployed using only existing resources. Students were challenged to creatively use modular robots and accessories to complete various tasks, trying to most efficiently get the highest score for each task.

Both C-STEM robot competitions are open-ended design challenges that integrate math and computer programming with art, music, choreography, and design for practical real-world problem solving. Students used small reconfigurable robots, the Barobo Linkbots, to learn programming, algebra, and math in a fun and accessible way.

For more information about the U.C. Davis C-STEM program, please visit http://cstem.ucdavis.edu/c-stem-day/.

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