



**For Immediate Release**

Media Contact:

Heather H. Pickett

Director-Presentation & Development

903-597-2501

heather@etstatefair.com

**2011 Academic Rodeo Engineering Challenge Contest Results**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Academic Rodeo, produced by the East Texas State Fair completed the Engineering Challenge Contest. Over 70 schools registered for the 21<sup>st</sup> Academic Rodeo with 573 students participating in 14 competitive events. The Engineering Challenge is a science and technology competition where students design and construct Mars Rover models out of LEGO® and non-LEGO® components. The Engineering Challenge contest is presented in cooperation with The University of Texas at Tyler East Texas Ingenuity Center and Innovation Advancing Education.

**Elementary:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Sabine Elementary, Gladewater

2<sup>nd</sup> – Lindale EJ Moss Intermediate School, Lindale

3<sup>rd</sup> – TISD Jack Elementary, Tyler

**Middle School:**

1<sup>st</sup> – Arp Junior High, Arp

2<sup>nd</sup> – New Diana Middle School, New Diana

3<sup>rd</sup> – TISD Hubbard Middle School, Tyler

Teams are required to build a Mars Rover and present the Rover in seven different areas at the Engineering Challenge Contest. The Rover MUST have a rock collecting device and a rock storage area. Student teams must also keep a Lab Notebook during entire process that MUST include a timeline, 3 itemized budgets, day-to-day notes, and individual pie charts. Each team must do a verbal and poster presentation at the contest.

Students must work as a team using the engineering design process and be able to clearly communicate the design process to others. “In today’s era of budget-cuts, many programs of this type fall by the wayside. Engineering Challenge teaches kids to utilize critical thinking skills and work outside of the box of traditional school lesson plans. Students acquire first-hand experience in problem-solving and creative thinking, important job skills necessary in the 21<sup>st</sup> century job market,” stated Al Ippolito of Innovation Advancing Education, the liaison with the UT Tyler Ingenuity Center.

All winners are recognized at the Academic Rodeo Awards Celebration at the conclusion of the 2011 Academic Rodeo on February 24th.

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The East Texas State Fair is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes through the operation of an annual event promoting education, entertainment and the spirit of competition. The Fair is committed to agricultural heritage, families and service to the community. Our mission is also to create commerce for Tyler and Smith County by providing venues for others to utilize and by drawing participants to the complex. Since 1992 the East Texas State Fair has offered \$345,000 in scholarships.