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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 12, 2016

### Lancaster High School Freshman Places in State STEM Competition

**San Antonio, TX/Lancaster ISD** – The 31<sup>st</sup> annual State STEM Competition for the Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) was held at the Texas A&M University-San Antonio campus on Saturday, April 30, 2016. The free event brought together 283 high-achieving students from across Texas. TAME students from grades 6-12 qualified to attend the state competition at Divisional events hosted by the Chapters.

Students competed in individual, timed math and science tests and in teams for an engineering design challenge. The top five students in each test received awards. The top five teams in the engineering design challenge were also recognized. In addition, three teams received special awards for design, creativity and teamwork.



Lancaster High School freshman Ashley Smith placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Engineering Design Challenge.

“For our challenge, they gave us a problem and we had to design something to fix the problem,” she said. “Specifically, we had to figure out a way to wrap a fuselage in carbon fiber. So, my team created a device where it was a dispenser that released several strands of carbon fiber at once.”

She said that her team had a unique approach to the design challenge.

“Our thought process was really crazy because [initially] we were focused on getting the most points,” she said. “At first we were playing around, but then we realized that we had a really good idea and just went with it.”

The State STEM Competition is organized by The Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME), a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1976 that enables Texas students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). In addition to testing student knowledge of math and science concepts, the competition promotes teamwork, leadership, and academic achievement.

All winners were honored with trophies or medals and all participants received a variety of door prizes and giveaways.

“Getting a medal for third place was very exciting,” she said. “It makes me want to do more and be more. It makes me feel like I can do anything.”

*For more awards, photos, statistics, and stories from the competition, visit [TAME.org/State2016](http://TAME.org/State2016). Contact the TAME program coordinator at [programs@tame.org](mailto:programs@tame.org) if you have any questions or comments.*