

News release



Everett Public Schools

July 10, 2012

For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4040

Terry Cheshire, 425-385-7000

Jackson High students take top honors in national tech competition

First place wins at June [National Technology Student Association Conference](#) (TSA)



Sophomores Sri and Sai Nimmagadda (*pictured back row, center with trophy*) came home from Nashville, Tennessee last month with first place wins from a national conference that also included more than 4,800 students from the U.S., Germany and Turkey. The winning duo traveled to the competition as members of the Jackson High TSA team with advisor Rick Wigre (*pictured above, front left*).

---more---

Middle and high school students vied for honors in more than 60 competitive events during the conference. The events were based on principles and concepts students learned during the school year in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects. [High school student events](#) number more than 30 and range from *animatronics* to *Web design*. Middle school student competitive events are just as numerous and rigorous and include *agriculture and biotechnology design* and *video game development*.

Debating Technological Issues was the winning high school event project for Sri and Sai. The team took pro and con sides of this year's debate topic – biotechnology – and tackled both sides of the three subtopics of:

Subtopic 1 – Is it appropriate to use emerging synthetic genomic engineering technology to build new forms of “life?”

Subtopic 2 – Should genetic engineering techniques and processes be used in agriculture?

Subtopic 3 – Should companies that develop genetically altered plants and seeds be allowed to have a monopoly on the products they develop?

This is not the first time JHS students have done well at this national conference. [In 2009](#), seven Timberwolves placed well, and advisor Rick Wigre was named the national advisor of the year.

“STEM achievement is critical for our students’ success in their futures,” stated Principal Terry Cheshire. “It is an honor to have Jackson students and staff represent us so well in these competitions – a clear demonstration of the challenges our students face and meet in classrooms today and their preparation to lead and shape the future tomorrow.”

---end---