FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALABAMA STUDENTS DISPLAYING PROFESSIONAL TECH KNOWLEDGE THIS WEEK
Top Winners Will Represent State at Upcoming 2016 TSA Championship in Nashville

Montgomery, Ala. – Over the past decade, new innovations in technology have substantially improved our lives. The development of smartphones alone has changed the way we live and work. Nearly 64 percent of American adults now own smartphones. Many high school and middle school students are now very interested in technology careers.

The Alabama Technology Student Association (TSA) 36th Annual State Conference will be held this week at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) on April 27-28.

More than 800 students and teachers have traveled to Birmingham to attend this state championship. Students attending this event will have an opportunity to participate in more than 40 competitive events and leadership development workshops.

TSA, founded in 1967, is devoted to preparing America’s youth for careers in technology and engineering-based occupations. Currently, this organization has more than 200,000 members throughout the United States. Alabama has approximately 4,500 members.

“Students will be working with robotics, applying principals of engineering and aerospace technology, and using their creativity to solve problems during this conference,” says TSA State Director Ben Scheierman. “TSA students earn scholarships, prepare for college, learn about high-paying career opportunities, and also assist their local communities by participating in national service projects. We focus on helping students to achieve their dreams of success through rewarding technology experiences.”

Highlights of Wednesday’s competition from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. include: the Digital Video Production Competition, Flight Challenge (students building gliders), Drag Races, Digital Photography and Photographic Technology, Structural Challenges, and the First General Session (Ballroom B) from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday’s events from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. include: Extemporaneous Presentation, Tech Bowl Finals, Junior Solar Sprint Race (solar car race), and the Second General Session and Awards Ceremony starting at 3:00 p.m. Additional competitions and leadership events will also be held throughout the day.

Top winners in each of this year’s competition categories will be eligible to represent Alabama at the 2016 National TSA Championship in Nashville, Tennessee, in June.

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STATE TSA CHAMPIONSHIP, APRIL 27-28

Brief descriptions of some of this year’s Alabama TSA competitions:

**Flight** – Students study the principles of flight and then design a test-fly glider. Gliders are launched from a catapult that is provided on-site.

**Career Prep** – Students conduct research on a technology career and use their knowledge to prepare a detailed resume and job application and also participate in a mock interview.

**Engineering Design** – Students work as part of a team to solve a design problem. Through the use of prototypes, event displays, and design notebooks, each team explains in detail how it has solved the problem and its overall impact on society and the environment.

**Engineering Structure** – Students work to determine superior engineering. They conduct research, create, and then test a structure that is designed to hold the “greatest” load.

**Desktop Publishing** – Students develop notebooks with a tri-fold pamphlet, a three-column newsletter, and a poster. They then work to solve an on-site problem that demonstrates their abilities to use a computer to design, edit, and print high-quality materials for publication.

**Medical Technology Issues** – Student teams conduct research on a contemporary medical technology issue of their choosing, document their research, and create a display. The information gathered may include student-performed research or a simulation of research performed by the scientific community.

To learn more about Alabama’s TSA organization, contact State Director, Ben Scheierman, at (334) 242-9112, or visit the national TSA website, [www.TSAweb.org](http://www.TSAweb.org).