

Two HHS Robotics Teams Advance To State Competition

Two teams from Hart High School, coached by Rob O'Connor, earned a trip to the Advanced Arena competition of the Texas Computer Education Association held in Austin on April 30. Team Nova members are Candyce Neudorf, Josiah Holguin, Alexcia Rosette and Abigail Rosas. Team Tuesday members are Laura Vega, Tony Rodriguez, Lilibeth Nuñez and Leandra Perez. (Each year, TCEA provides its members with the opportunity to engage students and build STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Math] interest with robotics.)

In January, Team Nova and Team Tuesday attended the Texas Computer Education Association's Advanced Area competition in Amarillo, which is considered regional competition. The two teams built and programmed Lego robots that can work like factory robots and assemble batteries. Team Nova came in first and Team Tuesday was second, qualifying the two teams for the state meet.

Two other teams competed at the area meet held at Texas Tech: Team Mechanical Hart and Team Diatomic Dingoes. The team members presented information about their team and robot before a panel of judges and submitted an engineering journal for review. The teams then entered their robots into an all-day, alliance-based, competition. Diatomic Dingoes placed eighth and Mechanical Hart was ninth. The Diatomic

Dingoes earned a finalist trophy. Mechanical Hart won the Connect Award, based on their presentation and engineering journal's business plan that identified their future goals and steps they will take to reach those goals.

Team Tuesday came in 35th and Nova was 44th out of 58 teams at the state competition. Upon arrival, the teams began adjusting their robots to compensate for a difference in wheel traction. In Hart, the wheels spun smoothly over the mats; but in Austin, the wheels grabbed and peeled back the mat. The team members realized that the change in humidity adversely affected the robots; they spent about eight hours correcting the problem by reprogramming the robots.

Each year, TCEA provides its members with the opportunity to engage students and build STEM interest with robotics. Participating students design, collaborate, plan, redesign, construct, create, assemble, invent, reinvent, write, present and compete to see who has developed the smartest robot.

O'Connor said, "All of our students made a valiant effort to bring our best work to the table."

"Win or lose, every student who participates in robotics walks away with linear problem-solving, creative reasoning and collaboration skills. Patience in the face of absolute frustration and dedication to the task at hand earned our students

a place at state.

"We are all very proud of our Team Tuesday and Team Nova."



TEAM NOVA - From the left, Candyce Neudorf, Abigail Rosas, Josiah Holguin and Alexcia Rosette.

Congratulations, HHS Senior Class of 2016



CONGRATULATIONS

YOUR HARD WORK AND PERSISTENCE PAID OFF



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TEAM TUESDAY - from the left, Laura Vega, Tony Rodriguez, Leandra Perez and Lilibeth Nuñez.

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