



Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education

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Winners of All-State Coding Competition Announced

LITTLE ROCK — After multiple rounds of competition on the regional and state levels, students from the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts were named winners of Gov. Asa Hutchinson's All-State Coding Competition.

As winners, Karsen Beck, Noah Raby, and William Shaver from the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts received 529 College Savings Plan scholarships totaling \$2,000, each. Bradley Baltz, Lucas Jaggernauth, and Austin Parker from Haas Hall Academy in Rogers placed second, with each receiving \$1,000 scholarships deposited into 529 plans. The third-place team of Owen Bell, Julian Sanker, and Daniel Whitmire from Haas Hall Academy at Fayetteville each received 529 College Savings Plan scholarships totaling \$500. In addition to these individual scholarships, the schools that sponsored the winning teams were awarded \$10,000, \$6,000, and \$4,000, respectively, to support their computer science programs.

"The increasing number of schools that compete each year and the caliber of the competitors shows that coding is catching on all over Arkansas," Hutchinson said. "Our students and educators understand that computer science is a key to a great future for themselves and for our state. Congratulations to the winners."

A total of 122 teams from across the state first participated in competitions held regionally. The top 16 teams from the regional competitions, along with a team from last year's first-place school, competed in the All-State Competition, held May 18 at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's Bell Engineering Center.

A three-year sponsor, Verizon donated \$50,000 to ARCodeKids to support the competition again this year. The company announced it would also contribute \$50,000 to sponsor next year's competition, with a portion of those funds to be used to train and certify computer science teachers across the state.

"On behalf of Verizon, we recognize the leadership of Governor Hutchinson, the Arkansas Department of Education, and ARCodeKids to create a competition that will afford lifelong skills in teamwork and decision-making in a fun learning atmosphere," said Darlene Brugnoli, director of Government Affairs at Verizon. "Verizon is proud to partner in this program that provides students with the skills needed to put them on the path to success in an increasingly technology-dependent economy."

To learn more about Arkansas' Computer Science Initiative, visit <https://bit.ly/2nwlgmf>.

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