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CONTACT: Kimberly Mundell

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.mundell@ade.arkansas.gov

Gov. Hutchinson Announces Winners of State Coding Competition

2021 Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year Also Announced

LITTLE ROCK — Gov. Asa Hutchinson is pleased to announce the winners of the Fifth Annual Governor's All-State Coding Competition, which was held this past weekend at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock's Donaghey Student Center. Students at the Don Tyson School of Innovation in Springdale received the first-place prize, students at Rogers New Technology High School in Rogers received second place, and a team from eStem High School in Little Rock received the third-place honor.

"For the fifth straight year, this competition has inspired impressive solutions from Arkansas' top computer science students," Hutchinson said. "Their work reinforces my confidence that these students will be more than well prepared to take the reins of leadership. When you consider the caliber of the five teachers we recognized, it's no surprise that we are seeing this excellence in our computer science students."

The winning team from the Don Tyson School of Innovation (Lucas Kellar, Luke Lyons, and Drake Mayes) each received a 529 college savings plan prize worth \$2,000. Students at Rogers New Technology High School (Joshua Willard, Aldan Garner, and David Daniel) each received a 529 college savings plan prize worth \$1,000, and students at eStem High school (Elijah Keen, Spencer Knight, and Sergio Markin) each received a 529 college savings plan prize worth \$500. In addition to the individual awards, winning schools received \$10,000, \$6,000, and \$4,000, respectively, to support their computer science programs.

Since the contest's 2016 inaugural year, Verizon has provided \$225,000 in financial support for the competition. More than 100 teams from across the state participated in this year's digital regional competition. The top 16 teams from that regional event along with a team from last year's first-place school received invitations to compete in the 2021 competition.

2021 Computer Science Educator of the Year Named

In addition to announcing the contest winners at the event, Ashley Kincannon, a teacher at Lake Hamilton Junior High School in the Lake Hamilton School District, was named the 2021 Arkansas Computer Science Educator of the Year. In addition to receiving a \$2,500 award when named a finalist, Kincannon received an additional \$12,500 award from the Arkansas Department of Education's Office of Computer Science.

Hutchinson also recognized the other four finalists at the event.

- Carl Frank - Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts
- Kimberly Raup – Conway High School (Conway School District)
- Stacy Reynolds – McGehee High School (McGehee School District)
- Lauren Taylor - Dardanelle High School (Dardanelle School District)

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