

## STATE MATH TEAM PLACES FIFTH AT NATIONAL ARML CONTEST

June 6, 2011

On June 3-4, 30 of Washington State's brightest math students traveled to Las Vegas, NV to compete in the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual American Regions Math League (ARML) competition. The ARML contest challenged 120 teams, each consisting of 15 students, to tackle challenging math questions as they pursued the top individual and team awards. The top 15 students from Washington State competed on a team in Division A, finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Las Vegas site and 5<sup>th</sup> place in the nation. According to math teacher Tom Norris, who began coaching the Washington ARML team in 1995, the Washington team has never placed higher. The team scored a total of 218 points out of 300 possible, winning plaques sponsored by global investment firm D. E. Shaw & Co and TI-Nspire™ math analysis software provided by Texas Instruments. Washington's second team scored a respectable 119 points but fell just short of placing among the top Division B teams.

The winning team of the 2011 ARML competition hailed from Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, scoring an extraordinary 232 points. Teams from Phillips Exeter Academy, North Carolina, and New York City narrowly beat Washington to claim other top awards. As the contest name suggests, ARML teams are formed from regions of various sizes, ranging from a single school to a large group of states.

In Washington, the 30 team members were selected from across the state based on previous math experience and performance at math competitions earlier this year. For many, simply making the team was a huge accomplishment and represented the culmination of years of hard work and dedication.

During the contest, competitors gathered at four university campus sites across the nation: The University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Penn State University; The University of Iowa; and The University of Georgia. Over the course of two days, participants completed a team round, a proof-based round, and an individual round. The contest closed with several "relay" rounds in which competitors solved problems using answers they received from their teammates, requiring speed, teamwork, and accuracy. Topics covered on the exams extended well beyond those covered in standard high school curricula, making it even more impressive that some of the contests' top scorers were as young as age 13.

The Washington team consisted of the following members:

**Federal Way Public Academy:** Jacinta Clay, 8<sup>th</sup>; Audrey Li, 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Inglesmoor High School:** Yota Kato, 11<sup>th</sup>; Yuta Kato, 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Interlake High School:** Shiv Ahluwalia, 10<sup>th</sup>; Puneet Dewan, 12<sup>th</sup>; Fred Kim, 10<sup>th</sup>; Matthew Klucher, 11<sup>th</sup>; Kevin Liu, 9<sup>th</sup>; John Ma, 10<sup>th</sup>; Akshath Sivaprasad, 9<sup>th</sup>; Derek Tsang, 12<sup>th</sup>; Helen Yu, 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Lakeside School:** Joshua Hinman, 7<sup>th</sup>; Darryl Wu, 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Nathan Hale High School:** David (Che-Cheng) Lien, 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Newport High School:** Austin Davis, 12<sup>th</sup>; Brian Liou, 11<sup>th</sup>; Pei Tao, 11<sup>th</sup>; Andrew Wang, 12<sup>th</sup>; Emily Zhang, 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Odle Middle School:** Abhinand Sivaprasad, 7<sup>th</sup>; Kevin Yang, 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Pullman High School:** Vivek Jayaram, 10<sup>th</sup>; Rachit Singh, 9<sup>th</sup>; Mitchell Tang, 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Redmond High School:** Samvit Jain, 10<sup>th</sup>; Kevin Parker, 11<sup>th</sup>; Sophia Xu, 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Thomas Jefferson High School:** Justin Allmaras, 10<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to serving as co-captain of the winning team, senior David Lien finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation individually and was awarded an \$850 cash prize sponsored by the D. E. Shaw group.

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