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SONORAN SCIENCE ACADEMY-TUCSON ADVANCES TO WORLD ROBOTICS COMPETITION

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM “CRUSH 1011” UNDEFEATED IN COLORADO REGIONALS

[Tucson, AZ], March 25, 2017– Sonoran Science Academy Tucson’s Team CRUSH 1011 went undefeated to place first in the FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) regional competition in Denver over the weekend. 48 teams from the western United States competed in the tournament. Team CRUSH’s victory means they, and their robot named “Perry,” will advance to the World Championship, held in Houston in April.

In addition to going undefeated, Team CRUSH earned the Regional Chairman’s Award, which FIRST describes on their website as the “most prestigious award at FIRST,” honoring the “team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST.”

Also, high school junior Ruben Castro won the FIRST Dean’s List Award, which considers leadership, technical expertise, creativity, and commitment.

Dr. Adnan Doyuran, Principal at Sonoran Science Academy Middle/High School remarked, “We’re so proud of the accomplishments of team CRUSH! Our curriculum emphasizes STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math], and it’s wonderful to see these students using what they have learned to achieve such fantastic results.”

Dr. Gregory McFann, the Chief Academic Officer of Sonoran Schools, which manages Sonoran Science Academy-Tucson, offered congratulations to the students, but also added his congratulations to “Mr. Ben” Purkaya, Team CRUSH’s teacher mentor. He said, “Behind successful students lie successful teachers! Thanks, Mr. Ben, for all that you do.”

This will be the fifth consecutive year that Team CRUSH has competed in the World Championships. Last year, the team was honored by Pima County Supervisor Ally Miller, who proclaimed May 2016 to be “STEM Education and CRUSH 1011 Robotics Team Appreciation Month.”

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a 501(c)(3) public charity founded in 1989. Their mission is to inspire young people to pursue science and technology. The organization, based in Manchester, NH, designs accessible, innovative programs motivating young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills. For more information about their FRC program, visit www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc

Sonoran Science Academy Tucson is a K-12 school emphasizing a STEM curriculum, located near River and La Cholla. For more information about the school, please visit www.sonoranschools.org/tucson.



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