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Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee Announces STEM Superhero Award Finalists

PHOENIX — The Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee is proud to announce the 49 finalists for the 2014 STEM Superhero Awards, presented by Freeport-McMoRan. The STEM Superhero Awards highlight excellence and innovation in STEM teaching throughout Arizona. Forty-nine Superhero finalists were chosen out of nearly 200 nominations in various categories including: Best STEM School, Most Innovative STEM Club and Most Dedicated STEM Teacher.

"Super Bowl provides a great platform to elevate the importance of STEM curriculum in Arizona schools. We are honored to partner with Freeport-McMoRan to recognize STEM excellence and showcase 49 STEM Superheroes from around the state," said Jay Parry, President and CEO of the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee. "These Superheroes give Arizona youth an invaluable foundation to foster their future success and that's truly a lasting legacy."

The 49 finalists for the STEM Superhero Awards will be recognized at an awards ceremony on November 12th at the Arizona Science Center, where two winners in each category will be announced. They will receive red carpet treatment and prizes such as commemorative merchandise and grant funding.

"There are many outstanding teachers and activities across the state that demonstrate effective and innovative ways to spark student interest in STEM and to help them master science and math content, opening many educational and career doors for them," said Tracy Bame, President of the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation. "We want to help recognize those outstanding teachers and schools who are the everyday superheroes for kids in our state."

Congratulations to the 49 STEM Superhero Award finalists:

Most Dedicated STEM Teacher:

Allison Davis, Knox Gifted Academy, Chandler
Barb Gosney, Imagine Schools, Avondale
Barbara Cushing, Legacy Traditional Schools, Tucson
Brent Kellis, Red Mountain High School, Mesa



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Catherine Wyman, Xavier College Preparatory, Phoenix
Christine Sapio, Coconino High School, Flagstaff
Dan Zavaleta, Desert Vista High School, Phoenix
Dave Thompson, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff
Deb Moore, Raymond S. Kellis High School, Glendale
Diana L. Roberts, Whispering Wind Academy, Phoenix
Erik Hertwig, Globe High School, Globe
Fatima Mu, Smoketree Elementary, Lake Havasu
Heidi Jacobson, Cooley Middle School, Gilbert
Jake Henningsen, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Scottsdale, Rose Lane Branch, Scottsdale
Jennifer Cheesman, Zuni Hills Elementary, Peoria
Jenny Frank, Copper Creek Elementary, Glendale
Jim Clark, Hamilton High School, Chandler
Kaci Heins, Northland Preparatory Academy, Flagstaff
Krisha Leyva, Marana Middle School, Marana
Luis Bleuze, Genesis City, Phoenix
Marilyn Miracle Williams, Tavan Elementary School, Phoenix
Mary Ann P. Cawley, Somerton Middle School, Somerton
Micah Yorke, Sierra Verde STEM Academy, Glendale
Monica Crowder, Kyrene School District, Tempe
Nancy Foote, Sossaman Middle School, Queen Creek
Nancy Parra-Quinlan, Kino Junior High, Mesa
Phillip Howardell, Paradise Valley High School, Phoenix
Pradip Misra, Bagdad High School, Bagdad
Shawn Hardina, Campo Verde High School, Gilbert
Stefanie Lump, Canyon Ridge, Surprise
Ted Komada, Killip Elementary, Flagstaff

Most Innovative STEM Club:

Carl Hayden Community High School, Phoenix
Coconino High School, Flagstaff
Congress Elementary School, Congress
Cradleboard Elementary, Whiteriver
HeatSync Labs, Mesa
Orangewood Elementary School, Phoenix
Saguaro High School, Scottsdale



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Best STEM School:

Arizona State University Preparatory Academy, Phoenix
BASIS Scottsdale, Scottsdale
Cradleboard Elementary, Whiteriver
East Valley Institute of Technology, Mesa
Gowan Science Academy, Yuma
Higley High School, Gilbert
Maie Bartlett Heard Elementary, Phoenix
Navajo Elementary School, Scottsdale
Perry High School, Chandler Unified School District
Sierra Verde STEM Academy, Glendale
Xavier College Preparatory, Phoenix

In an effort to celebrate STEM innovation, the Host Committee selected 15 STEM Clubs from around the Valley to design table centerpieces to be displayed at the STEM Superhero Awards Ceremony. More than 150 students have been hard at work creating the centerpieces that will highlight STEM practices. The students from Cooley Middle School in Gilbert designed a "STEM Superhero robot" and the students from Desert Mountain High School built an "Iron Man-themed centerpiece." Club representatives also will attend the ceremony to unveil their creations.

About Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee

AZSBHC is a private, non-profit Arizona corporation that drives Arizona's plan for Super Bowl XLIX and is responsible for the \$30 million fundraising goal. The Host Committee plans and stages Super Bowl XLIX and all of its associated events in partnership with the NFL. In addition, the Host Committee is the catalyst to galvanize the local stakeholders in a united approach to maximize the positive media exposure, the game's positive economic impact for the region and leave a lasting legacy long after Super Bowl XLIX.

For more information visit www.azsuperbowl.com.

About Super Bowl XLIX

The Super Bowl is America's number one watched television program and culminates the NFL football season. Arizona will host its third Super Bowl in 19 years on Sunday, February 1, 2015. Super Bowl XLIX will be played at the University of Phoenix Stadium. For more information, visit www.nfl.com/superbowl/49.

About Pro Bowl

The Pro Bowl is held every year to showcase the best players throughout the NFL, as voted by the players, coaches and fans. The 2015 Pro Bowl will be played at University of Phoenix Stadium on Sunday, January 25th. It will mark the third time in history that the Pro Bowl will be held in the same city as the Super Bowl. The game will be played the Sunday before Super Bowl XLIX.

For more information, visit www.nfl.com/probowl.