



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

**P L A N O**  
Independent School District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**December 7, 2016**

## **Plano East Senior High Team Wins First Place at Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology**

### ***Twin Sisters Adhya Beesam and Shriya Beesam Win \$100,000 Team Prize***

**Plano, TX – December 7, 2016.** In October, fifteen Plano ISD students were announced among 498 of their peers across the country as semifinalists in the prestigious Siemens Math, Science and Technology Competition. From that group, 96 continued on to the next level of competition as regional finalists. This elite group included two students from Plano ISD -- twins Adhya and Shriya Beesam, IB World School students at Plano East Senior High School, who on December 6, won the national team prize and a \$100,000 scholarship.

The Beesams' research project is also a personal passion; with an uncle who struggled with schizophrenia, which was not diagnosed at an early stage, and after his tragic death, they saw the need for study in the area of mental health.

When asked what advice they had for other science fair participants, they both said, "just don't give up. Don't think it's too complicated or too hard. We thought our project was really complex, and we didn't know what to do sometimes, but we thought [there is] no harm in trying." They also mentioned that science fair projects should not be just about the competition. "Don't just pick something you think will win. Your project should be about your motivation to explore and find out. Research what truly inspires you."

A complete list of finalists and their projects are available at [www.siemens-foundation.org](http://www.siemens-foundation.org).

### ***About the Siemens Foundation***

The Siemens Foundation established the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology in 1999. The competition is the nation's premiere science research competition for high school students and seeks to promote excellence by encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects. It fosters intensive research that improves students' understanding of the value of scientific study and informs their consideration of future careers in these disciplines.

### ***About Plano Independent School District***

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for each student. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,500 staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Plano ISD schools empower students to be able to adapt to new learning and career opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be disciplined and creative in their thinking.

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