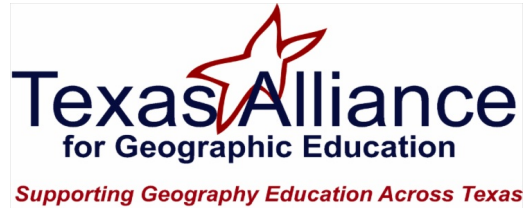


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Stay up-to-date on geography education in Texas.



Geography Spotlight - Hays CISD Education Foundation grant

Robin Manning received a Professional Development grant from the Hays CISD Education Foundation to attend the National Council for Geographic Education conference this summer. Ms. Manning is a high school geography teacher at Hays High School in Buda.



Congratulations Robin!

[Read full article](#)

[Submit a Spotlight](#)

GeoBee Texas Winner: Pranay Varada

The 29th year of the Texas State Championship for the National Geographic Geography Bee was an intense competition. Thousands of students participated across the state of Texas through their campus or home school association. The winning student from each campus or home school took a qualifying test with National Geographic Society. The top 100 students from across the state with the highest scores on the qualifying test were invited to the state competition.

This year's 2017 Bee broke new records with the length of the contest and the number of rounds asked to students. We had 18 perfect scores at the end of the preliminary rounds. Since only 10 students move forward in the final rounds a tiebreaker round was necessary to meet the requirements of having ten students. The top ten students' performance was outstanding with round after round

students getting questions correct.

Our top ten students were:

Tanay Mannikar- Sartartia Middle School, Sugar Land; Pranay Varada - Dewitt Perry Middle School, Carrollton; Sauruv Garg - Libby Cash Maus Middle School, Frisco; Dhruv Nistala - Noel Grisham Middle School, Round Rock; Christopher Vint - Brooks Wester Middle School, Mansfield; Arman Saxena - Woodcreek Junior High School, Katy; Samarth Bhat- Heritage Middle School, Colleyville; Nihar Janga - Canyon Ridge Middle School, Austin; Jakob DeBlok- Lake Travis Middle School, Spicewood; Max Hart - San Antonio Academy - San Antonio

This year 1st, 2nd and 3rd place were all 8th graders. Our competition was so intense due to the geographic intelligence of the top three students that we broke the record on the number of rounds.

- 1st Place for a second year in row was 8th grader Pranay Varada from Dewitt Perry Middle School in Carrollton Farmers Branch ISD
- 2nd Place for a second year in a row was 8th grader Dhruv Nistala from Noel Grisham Middle School in Round Rock ISD
- 3rd Place was an 8th grader Tanay Manniker from Sartartia Middle School in Fort Bend ISD

Each year the knowledge level of the students amazes all of the volunteers, as well as the adults in the audience. We had over 300 people in attendance to few this outstanding competition. **Next year's state bee will be on Friday, April 6th again at the Pat May Center in Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD from 9:00 - 1:00.** Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to be one of the volunteers please contact MarciDeal@hebisd.edu

Best of luck to our state champion Pranay Varada as he prepares and competes for the National Championship on May 14 - 17 at the National Geographic Society Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Be sure to watch the competition on May 19, 2017 on the National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD broadcast championship at 8 p.m. EDT

April 8, Geography of Africa

This workshop provides teachers with rich humanities content and appropriate instructional strategies for teaching about Africa. Sessions include an "Introduction to Africa" with Dr. Brian Cooper and "Africa: Challenges, Successes, and Prospects" with Nathaniel Dede-Bamfo. In the afternoon, teachers will engage in a hands-on activity "Highway Across Africa" with Linda Hammon. For more information, please visit <http://geo.txstate.edu/tage> and click on [Professional Development](#).



Funded by a Humanities Texas grant.

The workshop is April 8 at Texas State University in San Marcos. Registration fee \$10.

April 29, TAGE "Communities of Practice"

From 9-12 noon on April 29th, the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education will host a small group of educators in San Marcos to discuss TEKS streamlining and vertical alignment. This vertical team will be comprised of K-16 geography educators/ social studies coordinators/ curriculum coaches from elementary, secondary, and post-secondary programs. This is an opportunity to review the TEKS and to encourage communication and curriculum articulation between the K-16 educators. This is one of a handful of "communities of practice" meetings occurring across the state, sponsored by TAGE.

After the meeting, participants are invited to join us for the Department of Geography Alumni Reunion and Geography Celebration! Learn more about the reunion at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/alumni-central/reunion.html>.

To apply, complete the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/Gi4aQgDFP8WZjfM72>. Applicants will be notified no later than April 13.

Giant Travel Map Reservations Open for 2017-18

Reserve one of the Giant Maps for 2017-18 school year at

<http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage/teaching-resources/Giant-Traveling-Map.html>.

For 2017-18, we do not currently have grant funding to offset the shipping charges. Rental may cost \$100. **We are currently looking for funding to offset the shipping charges.** We will notify you of the final cost this summer, but it will NOT be more than \$100 per rental.

Also, priority is given to districts sharing the map with multiple schools within their district. A district rental is for three weeks class time, with shipping time before and after.

Texas Online Mapping Contest Deadline May 1st

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education is excited to announce a 2017 student mapping contest for Texas students, grades 4-12. The possible topics are wide open, with no special theme, just focused inside the borders of Texas. The content challenges students to create and share maps using Esri's ArcGIS Online to analyze, interpret, and present data via an online presentation, web app, or story map. (Obtaining an ArcGIS Online account is free of charge from Esri for use in K-

12 schools in the United States. To request an account, visit <http://www.esri.com/connected#school>.)

The top five high school and five middle school students/teams will receive a prize of \$100. A national finalist will be chosen by the state from the high school category and the middle school category. Esri will select one national middle school and high school winner to attend Esri's Education GIS Conference in San Diego, CA on July 8-11, 2017. At the conference, national winners will showcase their map in the main Map Gallery!

Deadline to register and submit maps is 6pmCST Monday, May 1st.

Learn more at <http://www.geo.txstate.edu/tage/> and click Texas GIS Map Content.

Youth Action Film Festival Contest



YOUTH ACTION FILM FESTIVAL

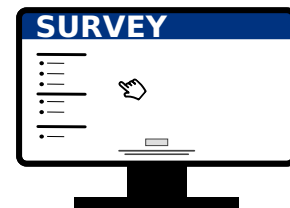
Empowering learner voice for social change through media making

The Youth Action Film Festival is an international youth-run organization dedicated to advocating for social causes in the world today. Social change doesn't come without action and as a film and media competition, we hope to inspire high school students around the nation and beyond to create stories that call for social change in others. Making a difference means taking a step, which is one thing we youth at YAFF believe strongly in. So take a step and help the youth of today bring light to the problems of tomorrow. Share your inspiring work on this platform to spread the word. Create a meaningful short film that brings awareness to social problems in your community. Visit <https://youthactionfilmfestival.org/> for requirements and more information. Deadline is May 1st.

Geography Education Survey

The Texas Alliance for Geographic Education is conducting a research study that includes a survey of K-12 educators.

Please spend a few minutes sharing your thoughts and share the survey with your fellow teachers.



<https://goo.gl/forms/l6ul6bzOhOJ6mTID2>

Texas Alliance for Geographic Education | Texas State University | 512.245.3827 |
tage.geography@txstate.edu | geo.txstate.edu/tage

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