

January 22, 2005

West Side Home Educators
1st Place Winner
Phoenix Region Future City Competition

A team of homeschoolers from West Side Home Educators took first place in the Future City competition in Phoenix. The team, made up of three students 7-8th grade, a teacher/coach and an engineer mentor competed against 94 other teams from around Arizona.

Team members were students Pearl Mahar, Ellen Rutter, Traci Sepp, Coach Chris Mahar and Engineer Mentor Art Kerschen. The students had to create a futuristic city using computer simulation software, write two essays, build a scale model of their city and give a presentation before a panel of celebrity judges and an audience over 400 people.

The team also won an award for the best overall urban infrastructure from the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The team will go on to represent the Arizona region at the national Future City competition in Washington D.C. during National Engineers Week from February 20-26.

NOTE: THE TEAM PLACED 8TH OUT OF 32 TEAMS IN THE USA. THEY WON A SPECIALTY AWARD FOR THE BEST OVERALL URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE FROM ASCE IN OUR REGION AND A NASA AWARD FOR BEST USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NATIONALLY.

They are also in the Future City Newsletter--go to <http://www.futurecity.org> and click on News Release - February 7, 2005