

MISSOURI TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST MASTER CHEF WILSON

Seven public school teachers have been chosen as finalists for the 2013-14 Missouri Teacher of the Year award.

Nominations for the award were submitted by school districts throughout the state. The finalists are chosen, based on their written application, by a selection committee appointed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

This year's finalists are:

James R. Anians, an English teacher at Hoech Middle School, Ritenour School District, St. Louis

Heather Bailey, a first-grade teacher at Maplewood Richmond Heights Early Childhood Center, Maplewood Richmond Heights School District, Maplewood

Christy Hefele, a science teacher at the Valley Park Middle School, Valley Park School District

Jamie Manker, a social studies teacher at Rockwood Summit High School, Rockwood School District, Eureka

Jason Navarro, a social studies teacher at Wheaton High School, Wheaton School District

Amelia Ruzicka, a middle and high school math teacher at Bayless School District, St. Louis

Jacqueline Wilson, a culinary arts teacher at the Lake Career & Technical School, Camdenton School District



The Missouri Teacher of the Year program recognizes the efforts of effective teachers throughout the state who provide a quality education to their students. Preparing, developing and supporting effective educators is a primary goal of the Department's Top 10 by 20 initiative, which calls for Missouri to rank among the top ten performing states in education in the nation by the year 2020.

CAMDENTON R-III TO HOST MID MO FIRST® LEGO® LEAGUE QUALIFIER



Camdenton R-III Schools is pleased to announce that it has been selected by **FIRST®** to be the Mid MO host for an upcoming 24-team qualifier tournament. The tournament is sponsored by the Camdenton 4-H **FIRST®** LASER 3284 World Championship Finalist team.

Twenty-four teams from the state of Missouri will converge on Camdenton High School for opening ceremonies on November 16 at 9:00 AM to compete in the 2013 **FIRST®** LEGO® League (FLL) robotics "Nature's Fury"! The FLL tournament is comprised of teams with students who range from ages 9 to 14. Teams of up to ten participants, with one adult coach, participate in the challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (robot game), developing a solution to a problem they have identified (the project), all guided by the FLL core values.

FLL is an international program created in a partnership between **FIRST®** and LEGO®, based on a common belief that fun and learning go hand-in-hand, and that an inspired mind can accomplish anything. Using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technologies and LEGO® materials, children work alongside adult mentors to design, build and program robots to complete missions based on real-world challenges. After an intense build season, the competition culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments.

During the November 16 event, Camdenton schools will also showcase exciting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)



activities that are being taught within the district. Spectators can engage in hands-on activities and learn more about the importance of STEM in their communities.

"The Camdenton R-III District is proud and honored to host this tournament. This event is an incredible learning opportunity for our students, parents, and patrons. Also, by hosting this event on our campus, our community benefits economically by bringing visitors from all over mid-Missouri to the Lake area. This event would not be possible without the efforts of our faculty members in charge of the robotics program and the support from our community", shared Dr. Hadfield.

The event is free and open to the public. Opening ceremonies start at 9:00 AM and awards will wrap up around 3:00 PM. Concessions will be available throughout the day's events. Over 50 community and **FIRST®** volunteers will be assisting with the tournament.

Third in the Nation Skills USA Nationals

This past summer, nearly 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students (who were all state contest winners) competed in 98 different hands-on trade, technical and leadership fields. Students work against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in their chosen occupation. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, with test competencies being set by the industry.

Justin Sherill, an adult student in Larry Wittrock's Marine Service Technology program, placed 3rd in the nation at the SkillsUSA Nationals. This is the second year in a row that Justin has received the bronze medal award in the Marine Service Technology program at the national level.



Justin Sherill and Larry Whittrrock