

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Paris ISD Future Problem Solvers score wins at International Academic Competition

Twenty-six Paris ISD students and their coaches returned with several wins after competing at the International Future Problem Solving Conference held at University of Massachusetts—Amherst. Paris brought home two international championships and a total of ten medals, awards, and recognitions.

Crockett Intermediate School students captured four Junior Division awards.

Operation F.E.I.S.T.Y. Force by Anna Grace Blassingame was named International Grand Champion for her Individual Community Problem Solving project that focuses on Females in Engineering, Innovation, Science and Technology.

Project Paris Pride team members Cate Biard, Caleb Echols, Olivia Fitzgerald, and Grant Frierson captured third place in Team Community Problem Solving.

Grant Frierson placed 6th in Scenario Performance.

In Team Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS), Makenzie Besteman, Cate Biard, Anna Grace Blassingame and Elizabeth Harper made the top 20 out of 58 teams.

Paris High School students brought home a Middle Division trophy, three Senior Division trophies, and two recognitions for Senior Division GIPS.

Ansley Downs is the world champion of Individual GIPS in the Senior Division.

In Scenario Writing, Harmon Ragsdale captured third place in the world in the Senior Division. He competed on-site in the team writing competition and placed third. Davis Green also competed in the Middle Division and his team claimed second place.

In the Senior Division of Team Global Issues Problem Solving, the team of Jocelyn Ting, Kaitlynn Hutchings, Aislinn Taylor and Allena Taylor made the finals. The team of Darius Ellis, Jeremy Seals, Alyssa Gilmore and Kadazsha Price made the Presentation of Action Plan Finals and their solve made the top 15.

The winning students are coached by Sandra Strom, Dr. Janet Dickey, Jill Stone, and Debb Fleming.

Paris ISD students have claimed 24 international championships and 72 state championships since the district began participating in the Future Problem Solving academic competition in 1985.



**Top row:** Anna Grace Blassingame. Caleb Echols, Olivia Fitzgerald, Grant Frierson.  
Not photographed: Cate Biard.

**Bottom row:** Ansley Downs, Harmon Ragsdale, Davis Green



Twenty-six Paris ISD Future Problem Solving students competed at the 2019 International Conference.