

News Release: Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students Win Congressional App Challenge

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For Immediate Release

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GREENBELT, MD – Four Prince George’s County Public School (PGCPS) students, all from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), won the Second Annual Fifth District Congressional App Challenge. Alexander Lugo was the overall winner of the competition. Nicole Balay, Jasmin Brunson and Fernanda Jimenez, all tied for second place.

“Congratulations to the winners from Eleanor Roosevelt High School,” said Dr. Kevin Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for PGCPS. “This is a unique competition that gives students the opportunity to be innovative while developing concepts and advancing their programming skills.”

Lugo’s winning app was a fantasy action game with advanced graphics and animations. Balay created an app to help her peers navigate through the halls of ERHS. Brunson created a game for players to test math and puzzle skills as cryptographers for the Federal Bureau of Investigation or Central Intelligence Agency. Jimenez’s app was created for children to play memory games.

The U.S. House of Representatives established the Congressional App Challenge in 2013 to give students an opportunity to compete by creating and presenting an original software application, or “app”, for a mobile device, tablet or computer platform of their choice. The competition is designed to promote innovation and engagement in the STEM education fields. Students entering the competition submit source codes along with an online video that explains and demonstrates their app and what they learned through the competition process.

Thirty-six students participated in the challenge and will all receive certificates at a reception in their honor. The winning app, by Alexander Lugo, will be on display in the U.S. Capital for a year.