

'A TEXAS RECOGNIZED DISTRICT'

# CHANNEL VIEWS

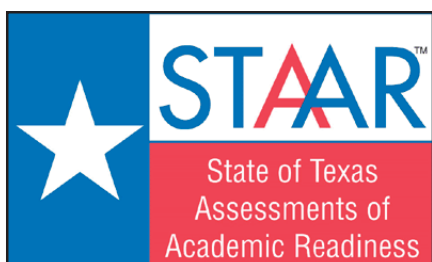


Highlighting the students, people and programs of Channelview Independent School District

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Building  
better  
robots!

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WINTER 2012

# Innovation at work

Alice Johnson Junior High  
Robotics Program  
builds on success,  
opens new worlds of learning

The Alice Johnson Junior High robotics team is building quite a name for themselves as they have had a busy and successful year. From earning the top spot in area competitions to showcasing their innovations to local education professionals, the students in the junior high's robotics program have been turning heads.

The robotics program formed three years ago as a way to promote and enhance students' knowledge in science, math and technology.

"This program has provided a fun and innovative way for our students to master their skills in these areas," Alice Johnson Principal Jules Pichon said. "This is a program that fuels the diverse learning styles of our students."

Alice Johnson robotics students took first place in the "Games Robots Play" competition in Houston recently. In addition, the students earned 11 other awards for excellence in programming, engineering, overall performance and best sportsmanship. The students competed against several Harris County public and private schools, as well as college prep and technical academies.

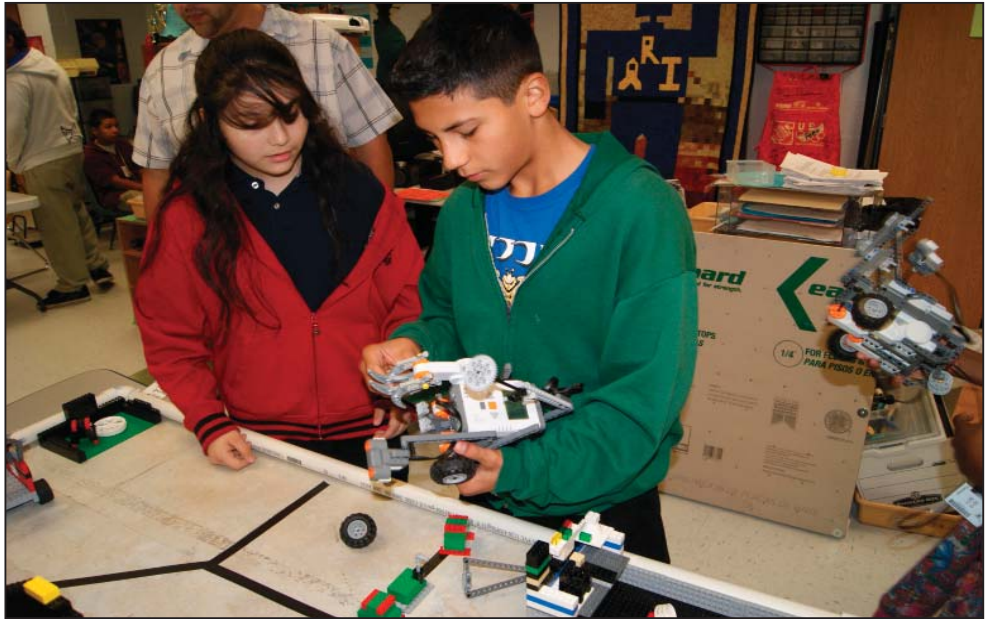
"I am so proud of our kids," said Joe Paneitz, Alice Johnson robotics sponsor. "They represented our district very well."

The robotics team is looking to build on their success as they will compete in a regional competition hoping to qualify for the FLL World Robotics Challenge that will be held later this year. The American Robotics Academy awarded Alice Johnson's program a grant that will help them pay for fees and materials needed for the competitions.

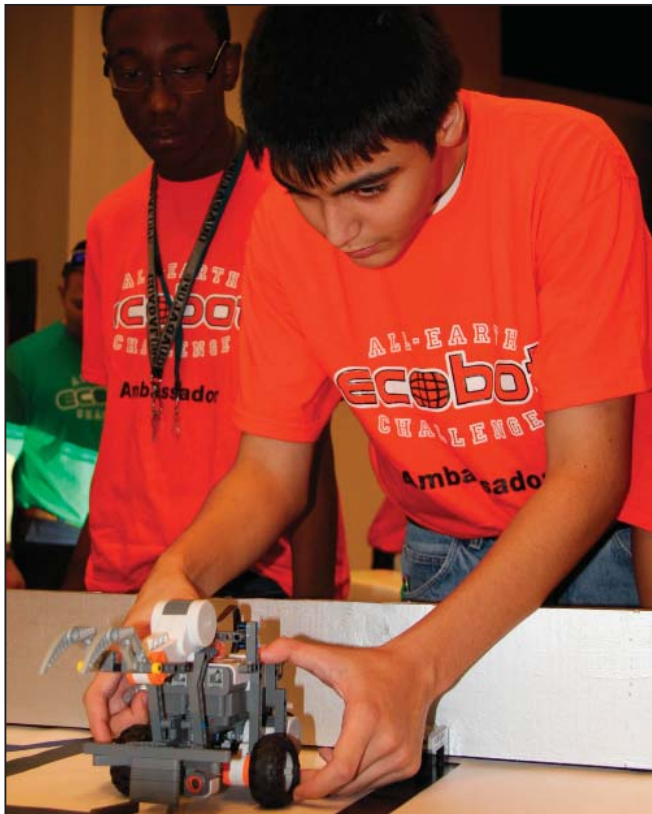
Plans for Alice Johnson students to compete in the national Botball competition are also in the works. The robotics program is receiving a \$2,300 grant from the Office of Naval Research to aid with expenses for the event.

The robotics program was also showcased at a Harris County Civic Leadership Briefing that focused on how businesses, corporations and philanthropists promote critical innovations in the schools. Several Houston area executives and civic leaders, including Houston Mayor Annise Parker were in attendance.

"Our program continues to grow every year," Paneitz said. "We are certainly excited about the future and helping to open up a whole new world of learning."



**TOP PHOTO:** Students in Joe Paneitz's class at Alice Johnson Junior High assemble robots that will be used for competition. The students create the body of the robots from Lego material and then program the motor.



**AT LEFT:** One of the remote control robots is being prepared to navigate an obstacle course during a recent competition.

**BELOW:** The robotics program was showcased at a meeting with Harris County governmental and business leaders, including Houston Mayor Annise Parker.

