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Hood students score big in online 'mission'

By Julie Huss
Staff writer

DERRY — Four students from Gilbert H. Hood Middle School won big as part of a United States Army eCYBERMISSION competition.

The students were part of the national Web-based science, math, and technology competition allowing students in grades six through nine to compete for regional and national awards while working to solve problems in their communities.

The Hood team, known as the "Last and Lost" team — Tiffany Ang, Hillary Hughes, Dylan Mahalingam, and Nisha Naik — received an "Application of Science, Math, and Technology" award from the eCYBERMISSION event. The students, under the guidance of team advisor Peter Keeley, were recognized by judges for an investigation into endangered species and for work done to educate children about the problem.

The team surveyed classrooms around the world, including India, Japan, and 36 other countries, and found the majority did not have a complete understanding of the endangered species plight.

Each team member will receive a \$2,000 U.S. EE Savings Bond as part of the award.

In the past six years, Hood has won \$24,000 in savings bonds as part of the eCYBERMISSION competition.

"We congratulate the 'Last and Lost' team for their superb research and analysis during this year's eCYBERMISSION competition," U.S. Army eCYBERMISSION program manager Mike Doyle said.

"These innovative students were selected from thousands of their peers and show the potential that our bright, young Americans have as future leaders in science, math, and technology."

This year, 6,382 students on 1,763 teams participated in the competition. Now in its sixth year, eCYBERMISSION has awarded more than \$4.6 million in saving bonds to students around the country and in U.S. territories. Registration for next year's competition opens August 1. Visit online for information at www.ecybermission.com.