



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REQUEST FOR STUDENTS IN 2017 STEM COMPETITION

March 9, 2017

Dear Principal, Teacher, Counselor, Community and Fraternal groups,

Blacks In Government (BIG), is a national organization, incorporated in 1976, that seeks to respond to the needs of African-Americans in public service. The United States Department of Education (ED)'s BIG chapter is hosting a local Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Student Computer Competition for DC, MD and VA High School students on Thursday, May 25, 2017 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Potomac Center Plaza (PCP) Building 10th Floor Auditorium, 550 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20202. The competition is open to students in grades nine through twelve. The STEM Competition provides high school students with the chance to develop computer skills and demonstrate their expertise and creativity using the computer technology.

The official 2017 theme is: *"Exploring the Capability of Robotics Engineering."* High Schools, community and fraternal groups are urged to provide contestants. Scholarships, Certificates and Monetary Awards will be presented to the first place, second place, and third place winners! No prior experience is necessary to participate in the competition. Students are urged to work with a subject matter expert (SME) as a mentor. Students are expected to:

- Design, create, and program one robot using components from the robotics kit identified by BIG
- Document their innovation and creativity in a design journal
- Connect with various students, teachers, robotics enthusiasts, and hobbyists in the engineering community.

The first place winner of the Computer competition is then afforded the chance to compete at the Regional level (Region XI) against other students in the DC metropolitan area on June 24, 2017 at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) located in downtown, Silver Spring Maryland. The **first place** winner at the Regional level will then be sponsored at the 2017 BIG Annual National Training Institute's Computer competition in Atlantic City, New Jersey on August 22-25, 2017. Students will receive awards (plaques and scholarships) for successfully meeting requirements of computer competition. The National Awards are: 1) First Place – Plaque and \$1000, 2) Second Place – Plaque and \$600, and 3) Third Place – Plaque and \$400!

We are accepting applications from any DC, MD, and VA High School student. The Education Chapter of Blacks In Government is particularly interested in African-American students whose parent or guardian

works for or are affiliated with the U.S. Department of Education. However, this is **not** a requirement and is **not** a factor in the competition selection or scoring process. There are more than 57 BIG chapters in our region <http://www.bigrxi.org/chapters.html>.

The deadline for submitting application along with parent's permission is Friday, **5/19/2017**.

Application and Parent Permission Form Information:

<http://www.edbig.org/events.html>

For Questions, contact:

Jesse Sharpe, Chapter President at (202) 245-7222 or email: jesse.sharpe@ed.gov

Cynthia Heath, Competition Coordinator at (202)245-8043 or cynthia.heath@ed.gov

Countess Clarke Cooper, Competition Co-Coordinator at (202) 377-4230 or countess.cooper@ed.gov

Sincerely,

Jesse Sharpe

Jesse Sharpe
President
Education Chapter
Blacks In Government
202-245-7222
240-447-9642

