PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 8 NAMED A STATE FINALIST IN SAMSUNG’S NATIONAL STEM CONTEST

Students will vie to advance in the competition on Dec. 4

***Photos attached: see end of release for ids***

PATERNON – A team of students from Public School No. 8 has been selected as state finalists in Samsung’s “Solve for Tomorrow” contest, a $3 million national competition that encourages students in grades 6 to 12 to creatively use science, technology, engineering and math (STEM skills to solve a community challenge. There were more than 2,000 applications to the contest were made nationwide.

“This is a great example of what we always believe about our students. When Paterson Public Schools students are presented with a challenge, they will rise to meet that challenge,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “I want to congratulate the student STEM leaders for what they have accomplished so far, and I want to thank their parents, teachers and principal for all they do to support them every step of the way. I wish you Good luck in the rest of the contest.”

Public School No. 8’s team is led by three students, Karen Vargas, Ashely Martinez, and Lorena Cruz. Their creative proposal, inspired by the solar panels that generate energy from their school’s roof, to use the photosynthesis process in plants to conserve and recycle water, was submitted with the help of teachers Martha Cruz, Ivette Soto and Anibal Cintron.

Sham Bacchus, principal of Public School No. 8, noted that all three student leaders had immigrated to Paterson just a few years ago. All three are part of the bilingual magnet program, which is designed to ease the academic transition for students who are English language learners.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this 2019-2020 school year, the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest fosters critical thinking and creative problem solving skills among thousands of students across the country.

“Since launching the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest a decade ago, we’ve seen students tackle some of the biggest issues facing their generation and this year is no different,” said Ann Woo, Senior Director of Corporate Citizenship at Samsung Electronics America. “From suicide prevention to single use plastic alternatives, teachers and students are stepping up to creatively address these important issues head-on. We’re thrilled to congratulate the State Finalists of the 10th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest and look forward to seeing these STEM projects progress in the coming months.”
As a state finalist, Public School No. 8 will receive a Samsung tablet. The school has the opportunity to advance through future phases of the contest to win additional prizes. Public School No. 8’s team must submit a plan to implement their proposal by December 4.

Photo 1: From left, Karen Vargas, Ashely Martinez, and Lorena Cruz

Photo 2: Adults from left, Ivette Soto, Anibal Cintron, Sham Bacchus, and Martha Cruz.

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