

## Sacaton Middle School Named an Arizona State Finalist in the \$2 Million\* Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest

<p><b>About the Contest:</b></p>	<p>Sacaton Middle School in Sacaton, Arizona is among the nation’s 250 state finalists in the <a href="#">Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest</a> – a nationwide competition challenges students in grades 6-12 to apply STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills to find creative solutions to real-world issues impacting their local communities.</p> <p>Out of thousands of schools that entered the contest, the 250 state finalist classrooms – five from each state – were chosen based on their creative and strategic proposals to solve complicated issues that affect their communities by using STEM learning. All 250 teachers selected as state finalists will receive one Samsung tablet for their classrooms and have the opportunity to advance through future phases of the contest to win additional prizes and educational opportunities.</p> <p>“The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest showcases the talents of student innovators who are identifying and addressing issues impacting their communities,” said Ann Woo, Senior Director of Corporate Citizenship at Samsung Electronics America. “We are inspired by the desire of these students to ignite lasting change in their communities and look forward to seeing how their STEM projects unfold in the coming months.”</p> <p>With \$2 million* in technology on the line, the 250 state finalists will submit a lesson plan detailing how students will execute the proposed STEM project and how they address the identified community issue.</p>
<p><b>About the School:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacaton Middle School in Sacaton, Arizona was named one of five Arizona state finalists.</li> <li>• Mr. Alberto Alaniz – a Middle School teacher – submitted the project idea and will be awarded a Samsung tablet for achieving state finalist status.</li> <li>• In the months ahead, Mr. Alaniz and his students will work on a project to create a non-lethal rodent trap that can be mass-produced at a modest cost and distributed within the community to combat rodent damage. Gardening is an important aspect of life and a resource for healthy eating as well as, supplements nutritional needs for economically challenged families. Within our own Legacy Orchard Project, this will help mitigate crop damage due to rodent infestations. Additionally, in keeping with our “no kill” ethics, this project is complementary to our communities’ wellness.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Future Competition Phases:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>State winners:</b> 50 state winners will be selected to submit a video of their project in action. For achieving state winner status, 40 of those schools will receive a \$20,000 Samsung technology package, including a Samsung video kit to produce their video. The other 10 will progress as a national finalist</li> <li>• <b>National finalists:</b> 10 national finalists will be selected to attend a Pitch Event where they will present their project to a panel of judges. For achieving national finalist status, 7 schools will receive a \$50,000 Samsung technology package. The other three will progress to the national winner stage</li> <li>• <b>National grand prize winners:</b> 3 national winners will be selected, and each will receive \$100,000 in classroom Samsung technology and supplies</li> <li>• <b>Community Choice Award:</b> The general public will elect one winner from the 10 national finalists who will be eligible to win an additional \$10,000 Samsung technology package</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interview Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Mr. Alberto Alaniz is available for interviews about the local issue his students will work to solve as part of the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.</p>
<p><b>Media Contact:</b></p>	<p>For questions about the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, please reach out to <a href="mailto:SamsungSFT@allisonpr.com">SamsungSFT@allisonpr.com</a>. For questions about the school’s project, please reach out to <a href="mailto:cpaul@sacatonschools.org">cpaul@sacatonschools.org</a>. or call Superintendent Mrs. Cheryl Paul at 480-204-8577.</p>