

December 20, 2011

## **Jericho Students Earn \$10,000 For Innovative Project In Lexus Eco Challenge**

Team Qualifies to Compete for \$30K Grand Prize

By Denise Nash

Nine Jericho students, who dubbed their team The Green Musketeers, are one of 16 teams from across the country to earn \$10,000 in scholarships and grants in the Lexus Eco Challenge, an educational program and contest that inspires and empowers young people to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. The Jericho team is now qualified to participate in the Final Challenge for a chance at one of two \$30,000 grand prizes.

The team members are Kristin Wong and Brendan Liu (grade 11), Diane (Dohee) Na, Anuhita Basavaraju, and Matthew Chun (grade 10), and April Pun, Anuja Shah, Rebecca Wang, and Anirudh Chandrashekar (Grade12).

The winning entry for the school was part of the Land/Water Challenge. For each of the challenges, teams are required to define an environmental issue that is important to them, develop an action plan to address the issue, implement the plan, and report on the results.

“The students created a Project Gallery, which included Facebook communications of their project goals, a video discussing global water related issues and how students, parents, and the community can get involved in conserving water,” said Serena McCalla, Jericho High School’s Science Research Coordinator.

“One of our goals has been to provide our young researchers with numerous opportunities to enroll in sophisticated, nationwide competitions that Jericho students have never entered before,” said Jericho’s Science and Technology Curriculum Associate Frank DiMartino. “It is truly amazing that they always perform extremely well in these events. During the past four years, our research students have won many regional, national and international awards, which is a tribute to them as well as to the dedication, perseverance and compassion of Ms. Serena McCalla and her ability to get a diverse group of highly motivated students to work cooperatively to create a final product that earned nationwide recognition.”

The Final Challenge will take place in January 2012 with winners announced in March 2012.

For more information on the Lexus Eco Challenge, please visit:  
[www.scholastic.com/lexus](http://www.scholastic.com/lexus).



***Pictured (L-R) are Jericho High School's Science Research Coordinator Serena McCalla, Brendan Liu, Dohee (Diane) Na, Anuhita Basavaraju, Kristin Wong, April Pun, Rebecca Wang, Anirudh Chandrashekar, Matthew Chun, Anuja Shah and (rear) Frank DiMartino, Jericho's Curriculum Associate for Science and Technology.***