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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Tara High School to Hold 10th Annual Geography Expo on April 30

Baton Rouge, LA – Tara High School will sponsor its 10th Annual Tara High International Geography Expo at the school library 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, April 29. The school is located at 9002 Whitehall Ave.

The creator and teacher behind the expo, **Kim Denson, has taken her students on a “GeoJourney of a lifetime.” Her ninth-grade World Geography classes** have been putting this event together for months. Beginning in January, 120 ninth graders embarked on a semester-long “journey” whereby each student selected one country that he or she “adopted” for the second semester. Using geography concepts learned during the first semester of the course, students were required to apply that information to each of their countries by doing vast amounts of research and creating various projects having to do with their respective nations.

The major components included a thorough Informational Research Booklet, a PowerPoint Multimedia Presentation and a Creative Country Display. **Each project has been turned in at different times throughout the semester, and on April 29 it will all be pulled together for the “grand finale” – an International Geography Exposition.**

This will be an opportunity for all of their hard work to be displayed and viewed by others. In addition to many planned activities, judges will be present to select the best projects in each of the three categories and prizes will be awarded. Also on that day, the students are being asked to bring food items representing the cuisine of their countries. The viewing of their displays is open to parents, students, faculty and staff, and invited guests.

Once again, the **Red Stick Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge** has generously agreed to sponsor the event as part of its community outreach program in the public schools. Not only have they donated funds to supply awards for the contest winners, but they have also volunteered to serve as judges. This organization has agreed to participate for its 10th time, proving its ongoing support for the public school system here in East Baton Rouge Parish.

This is such a unique event because of the various geography, research, technology and workplace skills these students have had to master in order to complete all components of the project. The students' participation incorporated a perfect blend of the latest cutting-edge technology coupled with "old-fashioned" project creativity. The skills learned throughout the semester will certainly aid these students as they continue their educational endeavors, and of course, the students have also developed essential time-management and organizational skills that will help to prepare them for any future career. The project has grown and evolved to meet the needs of Tara's students over its 10-year run, but the concept has remained the same: apply geographic concepts by incorporating rigorous project-based learning where students have the opportunity to work all semester long towards a final goal.

For more information, contact Denson at the school at (225) 927-6100 or at kdenson@ebrschools.org.

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