

## Press Release

June 12, 2011

From: La Crosse, Wisconsin

The Casa Grande Union High School Future Problem Solving (FPS) team was named Senior division Grand Champion in Community Problem Solving at the International Conference held at the University of Wisconsin - LaCrosse. The class consisting of 25 students beat out other teams from countries such as Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, China, Portugal, Great Britain and teams from the US with *Project SOS: Saving Our School*. In the Community Problem Solving component of FPS, students identify a challenge in their community and attempt to address it to bring about positive, sustainable change. After the community service is complete, FPS teams show off the work at both state and international competition. As part of the competition, CGUHS students wrote a six page report, interviewed before a panel of judges, created a display and talked with the LaCrosse and FPS community about Project SOS at the week long competition.

CGUHS Future Problem Solving decided to tackle issues related to the "Failing School" status that CGUHS has been assigned for the past three years by the State of Arizona. The team decided take on a variety of tasks to improve morale, increase community investment, and improve students' access to resources at CGUHS. The students wrote a book for incoming freshmen to aid in the transition to high school and distributed it to over 550 future Cougars. They organized a campus wide clean up attended by over 200 students, staff, and community members. The cornerstone of the project is a full scale renovation of the CGUHS library, whose outdated resources and technology put students at a disadvantage. Project SOS discarded over 10,000 old and damaged books, re-organized and designed the look of the library, fixed broken security systems, purchased technology including netbooks and wi-fi for student use, and purchased over 2,000 new books.

The CGUHS team was proud to take home the highest honor in any discipline in the senior division competition, effectively naming them first in the world in Senior Community Problem Solving.

It was amazing to see Casa Grande students represent our community and state so well in this international forum.

The following students traveled to competition along with their coach, Tiffany O'Neill: Marvin Vergara, Delilah Cassidy, Edward Cassidy, Lorenzo Norrid, Taylor Lehman, Stefanny Ramos, Victoria Rasmussen, Jacob Rasmussen, Timothy Geter, Satchel Wells, Christina Smith, Victor De La Cerda, Andrea Rivers, Adrian Rodriguez, Sage Brown, Jacob Toussaint, and Aniket Panda.

Even though the competition is over, the students are not finished with their project. They will be working throughout the summer to finish remodeling the library and seek additional support from the community to help with renovation. They are looking for

donations of furniture, books, and funding, along with volunteer man hours to further improve the CGUHS library. To help, please contact the team via email: [cguhsfps@gmail.com](mailto:cguhsfps@gmail.com).