

**Team Number:** 154-15301  
**Affiliate:** Ontario  
**Organization:** Tomken Road Middle School  
**Team Challenge:** In It Together - ML  
**Award Kind:** DaVinci  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Impeccably researched artwork with a message.

**Text:**  
This team's thorough research impressed the Appraisal Team as the team explained how an art class had inspired them to recreate the murals of Diego Rivera to create awareness for the international issue of sweatshop labor. This team created an incredible work of kinetic art with a clock that moved endlessly to represent the long days of sweatshop workers. It hid a tortured face that depicted the invisible struggles the workers faced. This team impressed Appraisers not only with their masterful artwork, but by truly using their solution to capture the spirit of international teamwork to solve an important issue in today's society.

**Team Number:** 114-54910  
**Affiliate:** Illinois  
**Organization:** Caruso Middle School  
**Team Challenge:** In It Together - ML  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Masterful engineering and technical work tied together with perfect teamwork.

**Text:**  
This team's hilarious Presentataion had the Appraisal team laughing from the moment it started as they solved the international issue of an erupting Aztec volcano. Every member of this team was clearly incorporated in all parts of this technically astounding Presentation, where repurposed home objects, like a mixer and RC car, were re-engineered to create well-designed scenery and props that seamlessly integrated important plot points. This team demonstrated phenomenal problem-solving and collaboration skills as they explained a technical effect that resulted in a literal "WOW!" moment, when a Sun Calendar was dropped into place and the entire scene transformed as the result of a well-engineered system of switches.

**Team Number:** 185-54151

**Affiliate:** China  
**Organization:** Shanghai Shanghong Middle School  
**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - ML  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** taking significant risk in creating more than 14 stunning Tech Effects that were beautifully integrated into the skit.

**Text:**  
This team went above and beyond to incorporate more than fourteen different Tech Effects that were all executed beautifully. They took great risks and succeeded spectacularly. Each Tech Effect contained exquisite detail and high integration between beautiful costumes, backdrops and tech effects that flowed together seamlessly. They worked together to create a truly extraordinary solution that lived and breathed the story. Some examples include: the realistic bird that sang and had eyes that moved, a waterfall that was made from a scrolling panel combined with lights and running deer powered by a series of wires and motors.

**Team Number:** 106-47214  
**Affiliate:** Colorado  
**Organization:** Crown Pointe Academy  
**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - ML  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Exemplary skill in research and design to create a pair of perfectly intoned and playable guitars of wood and cardboard.

**Text:**  
The team created a pair of perfectly intoned and playable guitars made of wood and cardboard. The materials used to construct the guitars were from home improvement stores. The tuning pegs were made from nuts and bolts, the frets were made of toothpicks, and the bridges were hand carved. The creativity of their construction and the integration of the music from these guitars was stunning. When played together, the duet sounded like it was played on Luthier built guitars.

**Team Number:** 106-96413  
**Affiliate:** Colorado  
**Organization:** Soaring Hawk Elementary

**Team Challenge:** In It Together - EL  
**Award Kind:** Spirit of Discovery & Imagination  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** A creative solution to bridge a 1300 mile gap to allow all members to be a part of the Globals experience. #InItTogether

**Text:**  
This team truly embodied the name of the Challenge, In It Together. After winning at their Affiliate Tournament, a health issue resulted in one of this team's members being unable to attend any meetings in person. The team wanted to ensure that this young man could help the team prepare and fully participate in the Global Finals experience, so they came up with creative ways to ensure that all team members were integral to their solution. The remote student was able participate in the Structure Check-In procedure, the team's Prep, and play a role delivering lines live from 1300 miles away. Once their Challenge was complete, the team also made sure to take their teammate with them to explore all the fun going on at Global Finals. This team truly exhibited the Spirit of DI.

**Team Number:** 185-26203  
**Affiliate:** China  
**Organization:** Beijing No.57 High School  
**Team Challenge:** In It Together - SL  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** saving the world from a sea monster by launching a rocket and then capturing it with a 15 foot Eiffel Tower!

**Text:**  
Not only did the team save the world from a sea monster by capturing it using an expanding Eiffel Tower, but they also launched a rocket during their Presentation! Their 4 foot miniature Tower, expanded to be more than 15 feet tall. Because of their exceptional engineering skills, we award team S.H.I.E.L.D. this Renaissance Award.

**Team Number:** 120-39984  
**Affiliate:** Maryland  
**Organization:** Wicomico County Public Schools  
**Team Challenge:** Top Secret - ML

**Award Kind:** Spirit of Discovery & Imagination  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** The ultimate Instant Challenge: a prop trailer was stolen & the team dazzled with a can-do, positive attitude.

**Text:**  
"We have just solved the ultimate IC," said a member of the Maryland team whose prop trailer was stolen the day before their Presentation. They recreated their set and props, helped by materials from the support system that is the DI family, and especially Maryland. It was an unexpected challenge and they met it head on. Their Presentation was upbeat and well crafted. They are awarded the Spirit of DI because they not only overcame considerable adversity, but accepted the challenge with gusto and grace.

**Team Number:** 123-06998

**Affiliate:** Minnesota

**Organization:** Delano Community Education

**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - SL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** outstanding workmanship and reliable mechanics that cycled the hero to death's door to save a young soul.

**Text:**  
This team displayed its original journey to save a young Vela from an untimely death. Our hero hopped aboard a well-engineered Dia de los Muertos Carousel in search of items to save her. The Carousel featured a bobbing dead fish, prancing pneumatic bone horse and a skeletal flamingo. After three cycles, the Carousel diverted the creatures via a sophisticated automated detachment mechanism, allowing the hero to continue his journey.

**Team Number:** 185-60622

**Affiliate:** China

**Organization:** Beijing Xiyuan ES

**Team Challenge:** In It Together - EL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** For a visually stunning backdrop that suddenly transformed to eliminate space junk.

**Text:**

The Appraisal team was initially impressed with the depth and intricacies of the backdrop, including a spinning Earth. As the Presentation progressed, there were more surprises as an automated system, initiated by a golf ball, rid the sky of space garbage. The vivid colors, bold brushstrokes and team-created pigments combined to create a depiction of deep space that drew everyone watching into the Presentation. Additionally, the 3-D elements of the backdrop brought all of the other elements and props of the Presentation together.

**Team Number:** 106-57964

**Affiliate:** Colorado

**Organization:** St. Mary's Academy

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - EL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Teaching acceptance and sustainability in a unique recycling "world" using intricately-designed costumes and sets.

**Text:**

This team brought to life one of our most innovative "worlds" by recreating the inside of a recycling bin. Team members created unique costumes constructed entirely of the recycled materials that featured:

a skirt and hat made from Coca Cola cans sewn together;

socks made entirely of soda straws;

a complete newspaper ensemble, with a paper-flower skirt, fedora and intricate necklace made from newspaper pieces rolled into varying-sized beads;

dresses created with Jello boxes, grocery bags and cardboard paper tubes.

To complete the effect, they created a set piece depicting the interior of the recycling bin with dozens of faces, creatures and flowers made completely of the recycled materials.

By the end of the story, the characters learned to accept and appreciate a new resident to the bin - a banana peel - teaching the audience dual lessons about eco-friendliness and acceptance of others. To top it off, they collected all of the recyclable materials by placing bins throughout their school, making their solution impactful not just to the Appraisers and audience, but also to their entire school.

**Team Number:** 750-27909

**Affiliate:** Texas  
**Organization:** Huntington HS  
**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - UL  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Creating a spectacular aquatic world using innovative technical methods, creative materials, and unique 3-D set design.

**Text:**  
This team used an aquatic theme and their years of DI experience together to create 3-D scenery that was a spectacular blend of both fantasy and realism. Their shipwreck setting was brought to life by melting and carving pieces of foam to create the realistic look of weathered wood. Their coral reef was created from colorful dollar store treasures like sponges, shower loofahs and cloth dusters which, along with their patterns, made the underwater world POP.

One team member brought a ship ornament to life, capturing the spirit of the story with beautifully carved wings (with 400 hand-made foam scales) and by painting herself shades of copper green. This team's attention to detail, creative innovation, and spirit of teamwork truly "blew it out of the water!"

**Team Number:** 123-90535  
**Affiliate:** Minnesota  
**Organization:** Woodland Elementary  
**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - EL  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Using circuit design, engineering, and advanced programming skills to create an impressive vanishing act.

**Text:**  
The team wowed the Appraisers with an advanced understanding of electronics and computer programming, using concepts of circuit design, computer components, and electrical relays to bring their vanishing act to life. The team built a circuit board from scratch, using copper foil to connect LED lights to the relays, controlled by a Raspberry PI computer programmed by the team in Python.

The Raspberry PI computer was controlled remotely via Bluetooth with a Wii remote control built into the apprentice's wand. The team taught themselves Python (programming language), learned how to solder, how relays work, and how to troubleshoot failed controllers.

Not only did they build the circuitry, they integrated it seamlessly into their Presentation by building it into a large coat of arms prominently displayed on a castle wall to enhance the effect of the vanishing act.

**Team Number:** 148-38953  
**Affiliate:** Wisconsin  
**Organization:** Sacred Hearts School  
**Team Challenge:** In It Together - ML  
**Award Kind:** Spirit of Discovery & Imagination  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Presenting a multi-sensory musical Presentation in fluent American Sign Language and English.

**Text:**  
This team truly reflected the values of DI by presenting a bilingual Presentation to raise awareness for a serious issue in today's society. The team was inspired to learn American Sign Language so that they could present a simultaneously English and ASL Presentation, in which characters travelled the world to find new ways for a deaf woman to experience the music that she so loved. This team's multi-sensory musical Presentation included a team-created and -designed light show and dance. The Appraisal Team was truly moved as the music cut out and the team demonstrated the richness of the musical experience even for those who could not hear it. The genuine compassion and devotion of this team truly highlights the message and importance of DI in crossing borders and creating change in the world around us.

**Team Number:** 750-79787  
**Affiliate:** Texas  
**Organization:** Frisco ISD  
**Team Challenge:** Top Secret - EL  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Designing an intricate and fully functional Enigma-type Machine with hard-wired binary system.

**Text:**  
This team spent weeks designing and meticulously wiring a fully functional Enigma-style machine. Capable of dynamic encryption and decryption using a hardwired binary system, the machine calculates and illuminates the result. Their old-school approach to the design of the machine showed that the team thoroughly researched and understood classic computer programming techniques. This team amazed the Appraisers with their in-depth knowledge and intricate system designs.

**Team Number:** 750-96850

**Affiliate:** Texas  
**Organization:** Dallas ISD  
**Team Challenge:** Top Secret - EL  
**Award Kind:** DaVinci  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** bringing down the house with theatricality and a living New York City Skyline.

**Text:**  
This team blurred the lines between set, props and costumes, amazing the Appraisal Team with their elaborate staging, over the top theatricality, and attention to detail. Team members performed from the top of the Empire State Building and in the dazzling lights of Broadway. They created a multilayered and elaborately staged New York City skyline, lending a sense of depth that the team used to pull the audience into their Presentation. Start spreading the news...they brought down the house!

**Team Number:** 106-84468

**Affiliate:** Colorado

**Organization:** Conifer & Columbine High Schools

**Team Challenge:** Top Secret - SL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Art that was as cryptic as Mona Lisa's smile. The breathtaking coded masterpieces were a new level of creativity!

**Text:**  
This team really made the Appraisers Scream! Their artwork was as cryptic as Mona Lisa's smile. Not only was their show a Thinker, they really took the Challenge to another level. Their artwork was beautifully rendered, and each piece was comprised of a different coded message, in a different type of cryptography. Every detail was meticulously crafted and created the illusion of the actual artwork. The Appraisers kept finding new things to rave over! This was truly a new level of creativity.

**Team Number:** 185-48584

**Affiliate:** China

**Organization:** Hangzhou No.7 Middle School

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - SL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** A compelling non-verbal story told through dance, movement, masks and original music - all on a subway ride.

**Text:**  
Through dance, movement, original music and masks, human nature triumphed over inner animal instinct during an everyday subway ride. This team's mesmerizing non-verbal Presentation transported the Appraisers into a social and mental battle.

The team's synchronized and choreographed movements told the story of a subway car of commuters. Social pressures lead the travelers to take off their human masks and reveal an unique, intricate, face-painted animal underneath. An amazing window blind backdrop helped blue vanish in a moment, and the team's non-verbal story spoke a compelling anti-cyberbullying message.

**Team Number:** 142-87591

**Affiliate:** Tennessee

**Organization:** Mt. Pleasant

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - ML

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Compelling story-telling in a compassionate & engaging Presentation, which portrayed the impact of living with autism.

**Text:**  
This team moved the Appraisers with their compelling storytelling, portraying the impact of living with autism. With an outstanding theatrical Presentation, they showed a realistic portrayal of the different responses from the community to an autistic character, ranging from bullying to sensitive communication. The team showed how a fictional world helped the character deal with real-world situations. From their sensitive acting to their eloquent script, we were blown away by this compassionate, engaging and revealing Presentation.

**Team Number:** 750-57913

**Affiliate:** Texas

**Organization:** BROWNSVILLE ISD

**Team Challenge:** Top Secret - EL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** This team created a visual, auditory, and olfactory effect with dryer sheets and a basket full of laundry humor.

**Text:** This team cleaned up with a basket full of laundry puns that left the Appraisers spinning. They created a visual, auditory, and olfactory experience that transported the audience to inside the dryer. They accomplished this by using oversized clothing costumes, massive amounts of dryer lint, and the fresh scent of clean linen that immediately filled the room.

**Team Number:** 185-62222

**Affiliate:** China

**Organization:** Zhejiang Yuyao Shinan ES

**Team Challenge:** In It Together - EL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary, using technical means to transform a waterfall and a tree.

**Text:** This team took what appeared to be ordinary and made it extraordinary, showing that first impressions can be deceiving. What appeared to be a simple tree came to life during the Presentation as the team used pneumatics to control facial features, limb movements and budding leaves, making this prop transform into a character. The waterfall in the background delighted the Appraisers as the team used technical methods to drop marbles on a xylophone to play a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace. In addition to the technical mechanisms, the Appraisers were impressed with the creative concept of how the pieces integrated with the rest of the solution.

**Team Number:** 126-20579

**Affiliate:** Montana

**Organization:** Manhattan Christian

**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - EL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** The construction and design of a 3-D stage rendition of Van Gogh's Starry Night & a team-created xylophone

**Text:**

This team was spectacularly ambitious with its props, stage, and technical effects. The backdrop was a sparkling 3-D rendition of Van Gogh's Starry Night, complete with twinkling starlight and trash bag cypress tree, while their stage was built to move in two directions. This extra movement enhanced the effectiveness of their Presentation by allowing the character of Van Gogh, painted like his self-portrait, to hang the moon in the sky. In addition to this outstanding stagecraft, the team constructed a PVC xylophone which used different colored lights, switched on by striking a note, to direct the Scrabble piece characters into their places throughout the team's Presentation. All of these elements came together flawlessly to produce an amazing Presentation.

**Team Number:** 750-58728

**Affiliate:** Texas

**Organization:** HAYS CISD

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - EL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Effectively exploring the mature topic of racial discrimination & demonstrating the complex ways it discolors our world

**Text:**

The Appraisers were amazed by how such young minds tackled the mature topic of racial discrimination head on by vanishing the color brown from all skin tones. When all the characters turned to grey, everyone realized that they have more in common than they thought, and achieved an appreciation of individual differences. They showed us that life is not black or white; life is beautiful shades of brown. This team was the only Elementary Level team to risk exploring such a complex topic in their Presentation.

**Team Number:** 135-59969

**Affiliate:** Ohio

**Organization:** Barberton City Schools

**Team Challenge:** Ready, Willing & Fable - SL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Engineering a robotic talking milk carton, 3D printed props, & ingredients that deliciously & literally came to life.

**Text:**

This team cooked up an outstanding Presentation with a recipe for creativity in the kitchen. A robotic talking milk carton, 3D designed and printed props, and ingredients that literally came to life satisfied the Appraisers' appetite.

**Team Number:** 185-66150

**Affiliate:** China

**Organization:** Beijing First ES of Xuanwu Normal Sch

**Team Challenge:** Ready, Willing & Fable - EL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Crafting a flute from unlikely materials combining music, culture, engineering & science with perfect pitch.

**Text:**

This team was "READY" to wow us with their artistic talent.

They were "WILLING" to take us on a musical journey through the emotions of their story.

They were "FABLE" to amaze us with the hand-crafted flute which played beautiful, original music accompanying a cultural dance.

After seven prototypes, the final flute was devised using a carefully selected length and thickness of PVC pipe that created the desired pitch and tone, which matched the original musical score written by a team member.

In addition, the flute was adorned with intricate artwork representing a dragon and cultural symbols. The crowning glory to this beautiful flute was a vibrantly-colored tassel, with a Chinese symbol affixed at the end.

**Team Number:** 131-56109

**Affiliate:** New Jersey

**Organization:** Bernards DI

**Team Challenge:** Ready, Willing & Fable - ML  
**Award Kind:** torchbearer  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Created a lasting impact on an African community by funding the education of 10 young women & giving the gift of hope.

**Text:**  
This Award is given for this team's thoughtful and informed consideration of both the immediate needs and long term consequences of their project in the lives of ten young African women by funding a year of school for each of them.  
The impact of this education spans generations into the future by altering these women's life trajectories. They unlocked doors and created opportunities that otherwise these young ladies might not have had.

**Team Number:** 750-78353  
**Affiliate:** Texas  
**Organization:** Independent  
**Team Challenge:** Ready, Willing & Fable - ML  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Presenting a multi-sensory day at the zoo with jaw-dropping engineering and humorous, fast-paced dialogue.

**Text:**  
This team brought their A-game from the very first second, with a tight cohesive script, 3-dimensional props, puppetry, humor, multisensory information, commentary from the monkey habitat, and the jaw-dropping engineering of their character transformation, all delivered at a feverish pace. The finished product reminded us of the need to remain active and challenged, a memory that will live on in our muscles as well as in our minds.

**Team Number:** 147-37640  
**Affiliate:** Washington  
**Organization:** Nine Mile Falls School District  
**Team Challenge:** Ready, Willing & Fable - ML

**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** Outstanding theatrical personification of a skunk and the support from his animal friends to weather any storm.

**Text:**  
This team was very detail oriented and presented a consistent storyline from beginning to end. By showing the story of a group of woodland creatures, they presented the journey of a skunk who lost his hope and home to a storm. With the prevailing motto, "if we all work together, we can do great things," the skunk's animal friends employed the true tenets of DI by using creativity, teamwork and problem-solving to put his house (and his life) back together.

**Team Number:** 112-48415

**Affiliate:** Iowa

**Organization:** Maharishi School

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - SL

**Award Kind:** DaVinci

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** A Broadway-ready musical about a delightful dystopia full of campy crayons, satirical songs & astounding art.

**Text:**  
For the crayon, by the crayon, and of the crayon - who knew communism could be so colorful and creative.

From their phenomenal original songs to their thought-provoking content, this team transported the Appraisers to a dystopian society we NEVER wanted to leave. Their not-so-colorful character may have seemed bland on the outside, but his dry wit, dead pan humor and ALAN-ness made him stand out from the box. Their Broadway-ready musical was filled with campy crayon, satirical songs and delightful dancing.

A rotating miniature silhouette cityscape filled our senses without filling the stage. It was enhanced by a professional-quality surrealist landscape on a unusual convex frame. A team-coded hydrolic elevate "took care" of the red, ushering in a benign dictatorship.

**Team Number:** 185-87418

**Affiliate:** China

**Organization:** Beijing Zhongguancun No.1 ES

**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - EL  
**Award Kind:** Renaissance  
**Recipient:** Team  
**For:** A sturdy, modular stage that depicted the springtime environment before supporting four dancers.

**Text:**  
This team created four massive pieces of modular scenery that were rearranged into an arch, a portal, and a stage as the team's Presentation progressed. As an arch, they introduced the first characters. With a mighty blow, they turned the arch into a portal. As a portal, the piece lit from within to reveal team-created, natural imagery buried beneath the translucent surface. The portal was then transformed into a stage upon which the team performed an elaborate fan dance that told a story without many words. The stage was strong enough to support the weight of four dancers at once. The team created many other enchanting pieces, but these stood out as something unique and flexible.

**Team Number:** 147-71220

**Affiliate:** Washington

**Organization:** Kirkland Independent DI

**Team Challenge:** In It Together - SL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** an elaborate 3-D set design, a break-away stained-glass window, and a Rube Goldberg device which caused destruction!

**Text:**  
This team wowed the Appraisers with their elaborate set design which included a stained-glass window, detailed paintings, molding, and an impressively realistic looking condor. A Rube Goldberg device integrated into the set unleashed destruction and shocked the audience as a river of water burst through the stained glass. We award The Impending Loom team this Renaissance Award for their exceptional design and engineering that enhanced the Presentation.

**Team Number:** 178-00082

**Affiliate:** Poland

**Organization:** Junior High School no. 13 in Wroclaw

**Team Challenge:** Show & Tech - SL

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** Creating a beautiful and intricate mechanical wooden hummingbird with wings that move as if in flight.

**Text:**

The overall approach to engineering a refined, high-quality design was demonstrated with exquisite elegance. Their progression of modelling to prototyping to building their final product resulted in an intricate dance of gears, connecting rods, and swivels, producing the very realistic flapping of their wooden hummingbird's wings. The immense amount of time and effort the team put into this set piece showed in its reliable and smooth operation during their Presentation.

**Team Number:** 114-76808

**Affiliate:** Illinois

**Organization:** Caruso Middle School

**Team Challenge:** Vanished! - ML

**Award Kind:** Renaissance

**Recipient:** Team

**For:** This toad-ily awesome Presentation integrated musical, technical, & performance skills into a true blue spectacle.

**Text:**

From the first note to the final bow, this team combined comedy, fact, and musical parodies to present a story about a villainous owl poisoned by an exiled blue frog. Not only were the characters captivating, but the story was seamlessly woven through songs that advanced the plot. The team built a five-lens projector to showcase their original animation. This "toad-ily" awesome Presentation integrated the team's musical, technical, and performance skills into a true blue spectacle.