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Future Problem Solving Program Hosts 34th Annual International Student Conference

*East Lansing, MI Welcomes Students From Around the Globe
to Tackle the Topic of Child Labor*

East Lansing, MI – Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) will host its 34th annual conference for the top student problem solvers from around the globe at Michigan State University May 29th - June 1st. 1,800 students from 41 states and 9 countries will attend the annual conference at East Lansing. These top international students will spend their time at the conference competing in a number of academic and creative competitions as well as mingling with each other in a number of fun activities (including participating in a variety show, publishing a conference newspaper, various tours of the attractions surrounding East Lansing and student dances and social events.)

FPSPI prepares students for the future by teaching them the essential problem solving skills that they need today. The program teaches students *how* to think, not *what* to think. Teams of Future Problem Solvers have been studying the topic of child labor for the past two months in preparation for the international conference. On May 30th student teams and individuals alike will be presented with a hypothetical problem in the future that relates to the topic of child labor. The students will use the program's six step problem solving process to analyze the potential situation, determine the challenges, describe the underlying problem, outline solutions, evaluate solutions and detail their best solution. The competition is broken into three divisions based on age: junior division (grades 4-6), middle division (grades 7-9) and senior division (grades 10-12). The students' work is then evaluated by a panel of judges who determine the top international groups of Future Problem Solvers.

On Friday, May 30th from 3:30-5:30 PM, each team will present their action plans (or final solutions) to a panel of judges in the form of a skit competition. The finalists from the skit

competition will present their action plans a second time on Saturday, May 31st from 10:00-11:45 AM. The conference awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 1st from 9:00-11:30 AM to honor the top international Future Problem Solving teams and individuals, along with the winners of the creative writing competition.

About Community Problem Solving

Community Problem Solving, or CmPS, is perhaps the most interactive and exciting component of the Future Problem Solving program. CmPS involves the seventh step of the problem solving process – implementation. Teams of students work together to determine a problem in their school, their community, the nation, or even the world. They then use the problem solving process to determine the underlying problem, generate and evaluate solutions, then implement the best plan of action. Individuals may also submit their community problem solving projects into competition. Just last year, two groups of students from Flagler Palm Coast High School in Palm Coast, Florida tackled two important issues: Project G.Y.M. (Getting Youth Moving) which addressed the fact that about 15% of today's youth are obese and Project NRG (Natural Resource Growth) in which the students addressed the need to conserve energy in the community so that the environment will not be compromised in the future.

About the Future Problem Solving Program International

Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) is a not for profit 501 c 3 educational organization dedicated to preparing students from around the globe for the future by teaching them essential problem solving skills. Future Problem Solving motivates and assists students to develop an active interest in the future, improve written and oral communication skills, work cooperatively, and develop research skills while learning about complex social and scientific issues. Students think on their feet - creatively, critically and analytically. FPSPI includes over 250,000 students annually from the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Russia, and Great Britain. For more information, please visit the organization's website at www.fpspi.org.

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