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Bennet Academy Students Advance to State Problem Solving Competition

(Manchester, CT—February 27, 2009) Three Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy students and their teacher will advance to the 26th Annual Future Problem Solving Competition at the University of Hartford March 27 and 28. The competition is sponsored by the Future Problem Solving Program International and is designed to engage students in creative problem solving. Sixth grade students David Beatty, John Kuenzig, Pat Levitt, Bijan Rezai and Teacher/Coach Samantha Randazzo will develop ideas and solutions to the problem, "The Counterfeit Economy." The students are participants in Manchester Public School's Enrichment Program, and meet twice a week with their enrichment teacher to engage in challenging learning opportunities, stretching their creativity and problem solving skills. The Enrichment Program serves students in Grades 4 through 8.

The problem addresses the issue of counterfeit merchandise sold in shopping malls, streets, and on the internet. Students will be asked to provide solutions as this issue impacts both retailers and consumers. The goal of the competition is to help students develop their critical and creative thinking skills and to enhance both written and oral communication skills as they examine complex social issues. Students will meet students from across the state, New York and New Hampshire.

The Future Problem Solving Program International involves more than 250,000 students annually from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

Students winning at the State Contest will advance to the Internal Competition which will be held at Michigan State University May 28-31.

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