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Springfield
Public Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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Gateways Teacher Wins State Samsung Award

Tiny house project wins \$20,000 in technology and a chance for more

Springfield, Ore. – Gateways High School science teacher Holly Ellingson has been named the state winner of the [Samsung Solve for Tomorrow](#) contest, a nationwide competition aimed at increasing interest in STEM by challenging teachers and students to take topics out of traditional classroom settings and into local communities. Ellingson had been notified in November that Gateways was one of five Oregon schools to be named state finalists.

Students in Ellingson's engineering and design classes chose to take on the community problem of homelessness by designing and building a safe and secure tiny house for use by homeless individuals — and find a place for it to live.

“The whole project was their idea, and they’re passionate about working on it and making sure it’s successful,” says Ellingson.

To qualify for the state title, Ellingson created an activity plan to address the issue in an educational setting. As a state winner, Ellingson will receive a Samsung camcorder and laptop to create a video about their project, which will be mostly student-produced.

“The students are the guiding forces behind this project, while I am standing back and helping to facilitate and promote their work.” she added.

She will also receive a minimum of \$20,000 in technology for Gateways.

Out of the 51 state winners, 15 national finalists will be chosen in early 2016, and their videos placed online for public voting. All national finalists will receive a minimum of \$40,000 in technology for their school. In April, Samsung will identify the 5 national winners, who will each win a \$120,000 technology grant.

For more about the contest, visit www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow.

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