While many area high school students enjoyed some much deserved time off after the end of another school year, a group of Forsan High School students jumped right back into the classroom last week as a part of the 2014 Texas Tech University SuMaC (Summer Math Academy) at Forsan High School.

Led by high school math teacher Seth Johnson, the six FHS students had completed a series of robotics projects that culminated in a competition on Friday to determine which students had designed the superior robot.

In the end, the robot constructed by students Christopher Mims and Christopher Chavez won the prize for most accurately navigating the obstacle course. Ross Freeman and Taylor Morin received recognition for building the most creative robot.

“I love working with our students in the classroom,” said Johnson, “but it’s been really great to work with students for an extended chunk of time every day for a week as they deeply explored different facets of a single project. By the end of the week, they were teaching me things about the robots and software instead of the other way around.”

The Academy is supported by the TTU STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Center for Outreach, Research & Education and a grant from the National Science Foundation. This year’s academy was unique in that the TTU faculty and staff members never actually got to meet the students in person; instead, the TTU personnel worked with Johnson to develop the program during the spring and then connected with the students via video conference to judge the final robotics competition.

TTU Assistant Coordinator of STEM Outreach Whitney Green said, “While we would always prefer to work directly with the students in person, it is exciting that technology makes it so easy to bridge the distance between Texas Tech and schools spread throughout the state.”

Big Spring ISD summer school schedule

summer meals
Program will be provided at the sites listed below:

- Big Spring High School: 705 E. 13th St. Monday through Thursday, Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Gohol Elementary: 1601 Gohlol – Monday through Thursday, Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Big Spring Junior High: 604 E. 8th St. Monday through Thursday, Breakfast: 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Elementary: 18 children 18 years of age and under are eligible to eat at no cost. Participants do not have to attend BSISD or meet any income guidelines. Adult trays are $3.00 for lunch and $2 for breakfast. For more information contact BSISD Food Service at 264-3635.

Big Spring HS partners with TTU for Summer Math Academy