



LEVEL PLAYING FIELD
INSTITUTE

For Immediate Release

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SMASH Students Win Best Educational Podcast Award

San Francisco, CA (July 12, 2006) A group of students from Level Playing Field Institute's Summer Math & Science Honors (SMASH) Academy won a Best Education Podcast Award in the Best Student Project Podcast category.

Sponsored by [Fordham University's Regional Educational Technology Center \(RETC\)](#) and [Podcast for Teachers \(PFT\)](#), the first annual PFT Best Education Podcast Awards recognizes outstanding teacher, student, and school work in educational podcasting. The SMASH students won the award for a podcast called, "Bottlin' it up," about the differences between tap and bottled water.

Since last November, SMASH students have been producing radio programs for the web called podcasts. Anyone with a computer and Internet access can create and listen them. On www.SMASHcast.org, they talk about science and technology through the lens of their family, cultural, and public school life. This innovative program empowers the students to develop a real voice through podcasting, an emerging and exciting technology that is breaking barriers in the world of communications.

"These podcasts are an example of what can happen when teachers and students are allowed to be creative in learning experiences. They demonstrate work which goes much further than basic requirements and illustrate the commitment and excellence among teachers and students which RETC and Podcast for TeachersSM supports and empowers." said Kathleen King, Ed.D., director of the RETC and professor at Fordham's Graduate School of Education.

"Our desire is that these awards recognize and highlight excellence, innovation, lifelong learning skills, and a growing passion for learning by these students and their teachers. The Center and Podcast for Teachers are proud to provide this "grassroots support," voice, platform and service to educators around the globe."

About Summer Math & Science Honors (SMASH) Academy

The Summer Math & Science Honors (SMASH) Academy is a three-year summer academic enrichment program for bright, motivated, high school students with an aptitude for science and math. Students spend five weeks on the UC Berkeley campus attending science, math, multimedia technology, and English classes that will prepare them for advanced levels of study in high school and eventually college. The ultimate goal of SMASH is to increase the number of students from underrepresented communities who pursue studies in math or science at the collegiate and graduate level. For more information on SMASH, please visit www.lpfi.org/education/smash.shtml.

About Level Playing Field Institute

Founded in 2001 by Dr. Freada Kapor Klein, the *Level Playing Field Institute's* mission is to promote innovative approaches to fairness in higher education and the workplace by removing barriers to full participation. Through our programs, the Level Playing Field Institute aims to expose and break down blatant and hidden barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their

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full potential. Our vision is that all students, regardless of socio-economic status, will have opportunities to apply to and graduate from top colleges and universities. As a result, our communities and workplaces will benefit from well-prepared, competitive leaders representing broad perspectives and sectors of society. For more information, please visit www.lphi.org.

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