

Eastside High School successful in national science competition

Gershon Harrell
Gainesville Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

A team of students from Eastside High School competed in the National Science Bowl competition this past weekend, taking home the fourth place prize of \$2,000.

They competed and won in the regional competition back in February taking home a \$500 prize and advancing them to nationals.

The award money goes to the school and is used for the school's science department, to go toward things like lab chemicals and textbooks.

The team of five was coached by Nicholas Simpson, Eastside High School's chemistry teacher.

"I can't complain ... Very successful, but it's all the kids, they're brilliant," Simpson said.

The team is made up of three seniors, one junior and one sophomore. Among them is team leader Bill Zhao.

"He actually qualified for the chemistry Olympiad as top 20 in the country," Simpson said.

Team member Arthava Pathak, a junior, is among the 50 physics students in the U.S. Physics Olympiad, Simpson said.

The National Science Bowl Competition is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and tests students in their knowledge of science and mathematics.

The students participated in a fast-paced, question-and-answer format where they answer questions about biology, chemistry, the Earth, astronomy, physics and mathematics.

"I was incredibly proud to see how well they answered most of these questions, they really demonstrated an incredible depth of knowledge in the tournament," Simpson said.

Sixty-four teams began the 12-hour competition and Eastside's team lasted to the final four, but could not break into

the top two.

For the past two years the competition has been virtual due to the pandemic.

The National Science Bowl competition has been around 30 years. More than 315,000 students have participated and more than compete each year.