



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **College Teams Battle at 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NAPTA Troubleshooting Skills Competition in Texas City, TX**

Texas City, Texas, May 3, 2024 — Teams of college process technology students from across the nation competed in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NAPTA National Troubleshooting Skills Competition (TSC) at College of the Mainland on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-four teams participated in the Qualifying Rounds of TSC VII in March, and the twelve highest-scoring teams were selected as National Finalists to participate in the Championship Competition.

Team LIT 3 (Patrick Clay, Leonardo Rodriguez, Caden Castilaw, and Coach Brian Parrack) from Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont won the title of National Troubleshooting Skills Champion. Team LIT 2 (Brittan Netherland, Jacob Garza, Collin Canada, and Coach Marty Day), also from Lamar Institute of Technology, won second place, and Team COM Aces (Caleb Hipp, Jose Cantu, Eduardo Barragan, Casey Reid, and Coach Dennis Link) from College of the Mainland in Texas City won third place.

The competition tested the teams' troubleshooting skills on recognizing and resolving problems with various industry-related scenarios, and while using computer-based simulation and virtual plant environment software. On the first day of the competition, team members participated in practice industry interviews and process-related activities like a personal protective equipment challenge and glycol unit scavenger hunt. Students interacted with attending industry representatives from BP, Formosa Plastics, Shell, Marathon, Cheniere, Kairos Power, Refined Technologies Inc., Eastman, Ineos, and other industry partners during the interview process and while visiting sponsor's booths. Speakers throughout the 2-day event included Kalaan Vander Hamm, BP Learning Delivery Manager, Jerry Isch, Refining Operations Training Supervisor of Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Shawn Wehmeyer, Formosa Plastics Training and Development Manager, Misha Baker, Olefins Production Unit Manager of Shell Deer Park Chemicals, Dr. Helen Brewer, Executive Vice President, Division of Academic and Student Affairs

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of College of the Mainland, and Xavier Pena, production operator for Marathon Petroleum Corporation and COM PTEC graduate.

The attending colleges were:

- Bismarck State College (North Dakota)
- College of the Mainland (Texas)
- Houston Community College (Texas)
- Lincoln Trail College (Illinois)
- Lamar Institute of Technology (Texas)
- Lamar State College Port Arthur (Texas)
- Northern Oklahoma College (Oklahoma)
- San Jacinto College (Texas)
- Victoria College (Texas)

Next year's competition is scheduled for April 23rd through 25th at San Jacinto College's LyondellBasell Center for Petroleum, Engineering and Technology in Pasadena, Texas. To be a part of this exciting event, please contact [NAPTAonline.org](http://NAPTAonline.org).

