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**CONTACT:**

Juleah Williams  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  
(512) 329-8666  
[jwilliams@tafp.org](mailto:jwilliams@tafp.org)

## **Houston fifth-grader wins national anti-tobacco poster contest**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Crockett Elementary student received first place in the 2012 Tar Wars national poster contest July 16. The contest is held each summer during the annual Tar Wars National Conference, which represents the culmination of the AAFP’s school-based tobacco-free education program.

Fifth-grader Juan Elizondo received the grand prize in the Texas Tar Wars Poster Content in May, which qualified him to travel to Washington to represent our state in the national competition, and meet with his senators and representatives to talk about the need for greater tobacco control efforts. Mr. Elizondo drew an elaborate scene featuring children in a flower-filled field against a backdrop of smoky buildings and his anti-tobacco message, “Blow Bubbles Not Smoke.”

For winning first place, he will receive a prize packet including \$1,500, a certificate of appreciation, and a color copy of his poster.

“Tar Wars is a great program that helps children learn about and practice advocacy for a tobacco-free life,” said Rebecca Hart, M.D., chair of the Tar Wars Program Advisors panel, during the national conference. “My hope for Juan and all of the Tar Wars participants is that they will gain an even greater understanding of the problem of tobacco abuse and addiction, advocate for tobacco-free lives, and learn how we can make a difference in our communities.”

Family physicians and other health care professionals present Tar Wars—AAFP’s tobacco-free education program—every year to fourth- and fifth-graders. After physicians present the Tar Wars curriculum in school classrooms, students are encouraged to create posters conveying the positive aspects of being tobacco-free.

The program provides students with the tools to make positive health decisions and promote personal responsibility for their own well-being. More than 8 million children have seen the presentations since the program's inception in 1988. Texas Tar Wars is the statewide education program to prevent tobacco use among children.

Tar Wars is supported in part by the AAFP Foundation. For more on Tar Wars, go to [www.tarwars.org](http://www.tarwars.org).

*The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit [www.tafp.org](http://www.tafp.org) for more information.*

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