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*For Immediate Release*

## Math Adds Up For Area Schools

**(El Paso, Texas – April 3, 2017)** - Two years ago, the Prudential Foundation announced a commitment of \$870,000 to help build a next-generation workforce in El Paso. Since then, Prudential's investment has impacted two programs: the Prudential Math Challenge Competition created for high school students and MATHCOUNTS targeted at middle schoolers.

The second Prudential Math Challenge Competition, which will be held in conjunction with the annual STEAM Fiesta hosted by Workforce Solutions Borderplex, is a math modeling competition that challenges high school students to respond to a real-world problem in real time. Today, three finalist teams were announced from:

- Pebble Hills High School**
- Presidio High School**
- Riverside High School**

They will compete at the El Paso Community College in Building B, located at 9050 Viscount, at 3:00pm on Friday, April 7, 2017. Results will be announced immediately following the competition.

Earlier this year, MATHCOUNT grants were awarded to the following middle schools to start or further math clubs within in their schools:

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| <b>Canutillo Middle School</b>              | <b>Ross Middle School</b>                |
| <b>East Montana Middle School</b>           | <b>Salvador H. Sanchez Middle School</b> |
| <b>Eastwood Knolls International School</b> | <b>Socorro Middle School</b>             |
| <b>Marfa JH</b>                             | <b>W. Clarke Middle</b>                  |
| <b>Parkland Middle School</b>               | <b>William D. Slider Middle School</b>   |
| <b>Riverside Middle School</b>              |  |

All of the middle schools listed above were invited to compete in a video challenge. The winners from that competition will be announced at the **STEAM Fiesta Awards event on Friday, April 7, 2017 at 5:00pm. The media is invited to cover that event.**

Prudential funded MATHCOUNTS to increase math competency by offering funds to public middle schools in order to implement a nationally-recognized MATHCOUNTS program. This innovative model provides students real-world experiences that cannot be replicated in the classroom.

**(more)**

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Participation in MATHCOUNTS during middle school will increase participation in the Prudential Math Challenge Competition for future years, as well as enhance interest and confidence in applied mathematics, a crucial competency for all STEAM-related fields.

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### **About The Prudential Foundation**

The Prudential Foundation is a nonprofit corporation supported by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, an insurance subsidiary of Prudential Financial Inc. of the U.S. The Prudential Foundation advocates for systemic change focused on eliminating barriers to financial and social mobility in the areas of connecting people to quality jobs, building personal assets and transforming communities. As a strategic investor, the Foundation makes long-term commitments that yield tangible results through both grants and program-related investments.

### **About Prudential Math Challenge Competition**

The Prudential Math Challenge is a math modeling competition that challenges high school students to respond to a real-world problem in real time. An open-ended applied mathematics scenario is presented to students who are allotted 12 hours to draft their solution, using only their peers as resources. No internet access is allowed. The final three teams will present their results on Friday, April 7, 2017.

### **About MATHCOUNTS**

MATHCOUNTS is a non-profit organization that strives to engage middle school students of all ability and interest levels in fun, challenging math programs to improve their academic and professional opportunities. Middle school students exist at a critical juncture in which their love for mathematics must be nurtured, or their fear of mathematics must be overcome. MATHCOUNTS provides students with the kinds of experiences that foster growth and transcend fear to lay a foundation for future success. Each year the MATHCOUNTS School Handbook is provided electronically for free to every middle school in the U.S. It contains 300 creative problems meeting National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards for grades 6-8. Problems are indexed according to topic and difficulty level, and also are mapped to the Common Core State Standards. It is viewable at their website: <http://www.mathcounts.org>

### **About STEAM Fiesta**

STEAM Fiesta is a unique, multidimensional two day event for middle and high school students in the Borderplex Region, created to increase student awareness of career opportunities in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math). There are seven STEAM high school competitions that will take place during the two-day event. For more information visit Workforce Solutions Borderplex STEAM Page at: <http://www.borderplexjobs.com/programs-and-services/steam>