

## 2015 Brazos Valley Worldfest Culture Booth Winners Announced



Top honors for the best culture booth display went to an individual student for the second time at the ninth annual Brazos Valley Worldfest at Wolf Pen Creek Park held on November 20, 2015. There were nearly 60 cultures booths spread out over the festival field at Wolf Pen Creek Park and Amphitheater with performances on three stages.

Prakash Yashwant Vyes, a senior Electrical Engineering student from India, took guests on an around-the-world tour to find the things world culture have in common. The booth culminated three years of research.

"The culture booths are an integral part of the festival, so we have loved having the festival field to spread out the culture displays," said Kim Fox, Festival Coordinator.

"Utilizing that space as well as the top of the hill around the Amphitheater allow us the ability to not turn away any group wishing to share their culture or heritage."

There is always a lively competition between those who bring culture booths to the festival, each trying to outdo the others and all trying to win the top culture booth prize.

Some of the Texas A&M University student organizations work on their booths all semester long. Criteria for the judging includes how attractive



the booths are, how well they engage the community and also if they follow the "green" theme of the event.

"Engaging the community is one of our major goals," said Fox. "We want our festival attendees to come away having been entertained, but also informed."

A four member judge panel consisting of representatives from the City, Texas A&M and community also viewed each culture booths for how well it captured their attention, how friendly the booth hosts were, how



informative it was and if it had a demonstration that was appealing to all audiences young and old. The judges admitted it was a difficult decision to make.

Four additional places were awarded. Second place went to the Texas A&M Indonesian Student and third place went to the Columbian Student Association. Fourth place to the Mexican Student Association and fifth



place went to the Aggies for Palestine organization.



Fox said that Brazos Valley Worldfest appreciates all the efforts student and heritage organizations made to participate. "It is always so hard for our judges to narrow their choices down to just a few winners, but to the festival planning committee and the Board of directors they are all winners."