



## Berry Academy Lenovo Scholars Repeat as National Finalists

*Tom Nguyen recognized as 1 of 6 national finalists in the Lenovo Scholar Network Mobile App Competition*

CHARLOTTE, NC – May 25, 2016 Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology is excited to announce their selection as one of the six winners in this year's Lenovo Scholars Network Mobile App Competition as a part of participation in the Lenovo Scholar Network. Berry Academy NAF students participated in a national competition and spent months designing coding, developing, and testing mobile apps. The competition originated to encourage greater interest among underserved high school students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects while providing them with high-tech skills to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Tom Nguyen, was named as one of the six mobile app winners for the 2016 Mobile App Development Competition, the app is named IMhere. IMhere is an SMS-based location tracking and emergency response app that aims to prevent children from getting lost. While the app itself can only operate on the Android platform, it can use SMS to interact with all other mobile operating systems. The app has a colorful kid-friendly Graphical User Interface (GUI) with large **IM HERE, ALERT & BACKTRACK** buttons to make all features easily reachable.



Developing Apps and being a leader in technology is nothing new for Tom, he is also the recipient of the 2016 Blue Diamond Student Innovation Award presented by IT-ology, an award presented to an outstanding student that has created new innovative technology or has demonstrated the innovative use of existing technology to drive value.

By participating in the Lenovo Scholar Network mobile app development program, our students are provided with the knowledge, resources, and practical experiences to support their college and future career success. Students are also granted access to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab's App Inventor development tool, a web-based tool for creating Android apps, to build and test their apps on Lenovo devices. NAF and MIT work together to provide technical assistance and to develop support materials for teachers using MIT App Inventor.

Tom Nguyen (IMhere) will join the other winning teams to present their app at NAF Next 2016, NAF's annual professional development conference, in Orlando, FL this July. Tom and Berry Academy needs your support. We invite our greater Charlotte-Mecklenburg community to explore the six apps and vote for their "**Fan Favorite**" now through July 19. The Fan Favorite winner will be announced at the conference and be recognized on stage for their accomplishments. To learn more about the apps, the Student Teams that collaborated and developed them, and **help choose Tom as the 2016 Fan Favorite by visiting [www.lenovoscholars.com/vote2016](http://www.lenovoscholars.com/vote2016)**.

### About Phillip O. Berry

Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology is a county-wide magnet school for the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The school provides a rigorous core academic curriculum as well as relevant technical offerings specific to three Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) academy clusters: the Academy of Engineering; the Academy of Information Technology; and, Biomedical Academy. There is a focus on the practical application of STEM skills and concepts found in each academy cluster. Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology's mission is to engage all students in a rigorous integrated STEM based education that substantially increases the numbers of youth who recognize a real value and reward in studying STEM, believe STEM careers are viable and attainable career options, and use their experiences to realize their maximum potential in a competitive global marketplace