



**OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

From: Smith, Megan J. EOP/OSTP

Date: September 24, 2016 at 1:27:51 AM CDT

To: Idit Harel <idit@globaloria.com>

Idit,

Thank you for letting me know that the Globaloria Finalists will be celebrated in Austin today. Congratulations to the students, to all of their supporters at school, in the community, and at home, and to your team for founding and running this program.

Students: I've known of Globaloria from its early days and also some of the research it is based on by Dr. Idit Harel when we studied in graduate school together. I just looked at the video with your game projects - these are fun, playful, and creative educational games that will be helpful to others in their learning, so I hope you share them broadly and engage lots of other students to consider making learning games for themselves and others. Many people all familiar with the process of writing a great essay, learning to play a sport well or creating a beautiful piece of art -- they all require determination, time, collaboration, lots of drafts and revisions -- and as you have learned in your work here, that creation process is very similar for making things in the digital world. You need to work on designing, prototyping, collaborating with others for help -- and you do all of that with graphics and other elements... and writing code.

Computer science and computational thinking are an important new literacy --- they are required to solve important challenges in the world. President Obama has launched **Computer Science for All** to help more students learn coding as part of their K-12 education and also created the **TechHire Initiative** to help your parents and other adults gain these coding skills in months not years through access to new training options like code boot-camps that help rapidly fill open jobs in your community.

It is important to prepare everyone with skills to be a full participant of the 21st century and help all Americans gain creative confidence. Most industries use code and digital skills every day as teams develop products, communicate, run the operations of the company, in some cases make new discoveries, serve customers and more – tech business, education, entertainment, gaming, health, manufacturing, security, government and more all use code and need more people with coding, data science, and computational thinking skills, like those you are gaining here. Today we have over 600,000 high tech jobs open in the United States, in all different fields, located all over the U.S. – and they pay 50% more than the average private sector job. We are excited you are now on track to become someone innovating in our country through coding, whether you join a company, nonprofit, or government team someday – or perhaps become the founder of your own organization.

Enjoy the Globeyes as everyone celebrates your outstanding achievements in computer science studies – and have fun meeting others doing the same.

Sometimes we see stereotypes in media or missing stories our history books about who the coders and computer science people are – which is unfortunate. I can assure you that men and women from all backgrounds have always worked on coding and become great leaders in technology. I was delighted to hear that there are as many girls as boys celebrating today.

Have fun – know that we from the White House are proud of you and those supporting you – and we hope you never stop digging deeper into computer science and engineering, collaborating and trying out your creative ideas for fun or for solution making. Our country needs all of you!

Megan Smith

**U.S. Chief Technology Officer
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