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Contact: Darrin Devault, (865) 974-0270

**It's brains over brawn as students take on the world
at Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals**
University of Tennessee to host record-breaking event

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – Outrageously festooned hats, painted faces and outlandish costumes will be part of the University of Tennessee campus landscape May 24-27 during Destination ImagiNation's Global Finals, as will an astonishing display of creative problem-solving and innovation.

UT will host teams from more than 15 countries around the globe with about 8,500 participants and 6,000 spectators.

"It's truly a record-breaking year, participation-wise, and in the end, we may break the overall attendance record," said Robert Gibbs, UT Conferences director. "This year's total number of teams attending is more than 880, which is about 50 more teams than we've ever had. Plus, there are record numbers of international teams with at least 70 planning to attend."

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Destination ImagiNation—2

Diversity is highlighted in the event's opening ceremony (set for 7:30 p.m. May 24 at Thompson-Boling Arena) as members from each participating state, province or country display their respective flags.

Destination ImagiNation (DI) is the international program designed to foster creativity and problem-solving in elementary to university-level students. Not only are students charged with designing solutions to problems most adults would deem daunting, but their creative solutions hint at a burgeoning awareness of self and the world around them.

Each year DI gives teams of two to seven students the opportunity to flex their creative problem-solving muscles by competing in one of five challenges. Central themes involve the exploration of technical/mechanical engineering, theatre arts, science, fine arts, structural/architectural design and improvisation.

During Global Finals, teams will offer their solution to a challenge in the form of an eight-minute presentation that typically includes creative costuming, props and scripting. Team challenge competitions will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on May 25-26 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 27 on the UT campus and Knoxville Convention Center.

UT has hosted DI's Global Finals since 1991 and has a long-term commitment to host the event through 2012.

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