

CARLSBAD: Local mom finalist in national science contest

By STACY BRANDT sbrandt@nctimes.com | Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 7:00 am

A Carlsbad mom and robotics coach is one of 21 finalists for an online [national contest](#) honoring those who encourage children's interest in science and math ---- and voting for her could earn money for a local education foundation.

Anna Lozar has been chosen to represent San Diego County in [Time Warner Cable's](#) Supper Connector Search. She oversees the robotics program at [Carlsbad Unified School District](#) campuses.

"I'm just really excited about the whole experience, and overwhelmed and humbled by everybody's support," she said.

Lozar will star in a public service announcement for the cable company, which will donate \$5,000 to the [Carlsbad Educational Foundation](#), which pays for the robotics program.

"Anna's critical role and positive impact on Carlsbad's students has been phenomenal," said Valin Brown, chief executive officer of the nonprofit foundation. "Her leadership has been instrumental in evolving our robotics program from a handful of local teams to a true district-wide program."

If she is selected as the national winner, the company will give the foundation another \$10,000. Anyone can vote online at www.connectamillionminds.com. The contest started Nov. 28 and will close Dec. 11.

As of Thursday, she was third out of the 21 contestants with nearly 22,000 votes.

The company started the contest in October, asking its customers to share how they've helped children connect with science, technology, engineering and math.

The contest is part of Time Warner's five-year initiative to inspire kids to pursue careers in those fields.

Lozar is a stay-at-home mom with a background in molecular biology.

She started working in Carlsbad schools four years ago when she helped create a science lab at [Kelly Elementary](#) and started writing grants for local schools to bring in more money for science lessons. She has volunteered as a coach for three science, robotics and math teams over the past couple of years.

She said she's excited to be able to promote science, technology, engineering and math education, and wants to encourage others to volunteer in the classroom.

Hands-on lessons make the subjects more interesting for students, Lozar said.

"It helps them to understand the concepts better," she said, "and then they get excited about it."