

Career and Technical Education Highlights for February 2017

Business and Information:

Three teams from Marshall qualified to attend the Virginia LifeSmarts Competition in Richmond on February 17. One team placed 1st in the state (for the 2nd year in a row) and will move on to National Competition in Pittsburgh, PA in April. Three members of this team also earned top scores in their individual topics. Congratulations Marshall Statesmen!

Congratulations to all of our Middle School CyberPatriot teams on an excellent showing in their first year in the competition. Of the 16 teams, 9 qualified for the National Semi-Finals. After the Semi-Final round, one team from Frost Middle School took first place in the state. The other eight teams placed in the top 20 in the state. Though no one qualified for Nationals, everyone learned a lot and students are already looking forward to participating again next year.

Over 200 FBLA members from FCPS participated in the performance portion of the Regional Competitive Events on February 6. Event topics included Public Speaking, Business Ethics, Sales Presentation, and Web Page Design. The judges were very impressed by the poise and creativity displayed by the students. Winners will be announced next month and first place in each event will qualify to compete at the State Leadership Conference in April.

Career Experience:

Chantilly Academy:

Engineering & Cyber Students Visit Vencore

A group of 30 students recently had the opportunity to visit Vencore, an Engineering, Analytics, Cyber, and Research firm in Chantilly. With over 4,000 employees, they serve as support to the U.S. Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, and the Federal/Civilian Agencies. The trip kicked-off with a message from the President of their organization urging students to stay interested in the fields of STEM and to keep Vencore in mind as they pursue their degrees. Additionally, students heard from one of their leading cyber professionals on the impact of their cell phones and digital footprint. Students continued to be engaged as they heard from a panel of engineers on their personal career path as well participated in a hands-on activity.

Vencore has been a dedicated business partner of Chantilly Academy for over three years, providing generous sponsorships to Girls Exploring Engineering as well employee volunteers that serve as mentors to our students.

Chantilly Academy Awarded Grant from Micron Technology Foundation

Chantilly Academy was awarded a grant from Micron Technology Foundation, a long-time partner of Chantilly Academy, and a leading company in the world's most advanced memory and semiconductor technologies. This year Micron has awarded the Academy \$2,000 to support First Robotics Team 612, Girls Exploring Engineering, and the STEM Robotic Systems course. The funding continues to help the student success initiative in these programs. The First Robotics Team 612 is currently in the middle of their intense six week build season, while Girls Exploring Engineering continues to hold regular mentor gatherings and outreach activities to increase interest for younger students to pursue STEM. The STEM Robotic Systems course continues to benefit from the funding as it assists in purchasing the robotics kits used to teach the course.

Edison Academy:

Edison Academy Hosts Open House

Edison Academy hosted an Open House Celebration for prospective students and parents on Saturday, January 28, 2017. Student demonstrations, tours, meet and greet with teachers and staff, displays by business and industry supporters, and door prizes were all a part of this year's celebration.

Nominations Held for Edison Academy's National Technical Honor Society

Edison Academy teachers nominated their top students for membership in the National Technical Honor Society for 2017. Of the 79 who were nominated, 63 students have met the criteria and been offered membership in this exclusive international organization which honors student achievement and leadership, awards scholarships, promotes educational excellence, and enhances career opportunities. Students pay a onetime membership fee of \$30 to become student members of the National Technical Honor Society. Donations are being accepted from sponsors to help needy students cover their membership fee costs.

CTE Month Recognition

Edison Academy kicked off their February CTE month celebration by hosting a Fat Friday covered dish breakfast for the staff of Edison High School. The entire month is filled with additional promotional activities including student Ambassadors visiting Key Middle School to promote CTE courses, #CTEMonth tweets and posts to Social Media, "Thank You for Your Support" emails sent to high school counselor liaisons in feeder high schools acknowledging CTE month, Thank you messages sent to business and industry supporters to acknowledge CTE Month and their support for CTE, posters in the hall promoting CTE, and several career speakers from business and industry who are set to visit classrooms.

Fairfax Academy:

Instructor, Matthew Balthrop was invited to judge the National PTA Reflections Film Production Contest. Matthew was selected as the only judge for the competition. There were approximately 10-15 works in the competition which he had to judge the works based on their interpretation of the theme, creativity, and technique. Matthew is in his second year at Fairfax Academy, he has overseen a local production agency for the past 16 years, and is an internationally award winning creative director.

For Fairfax Academy's annual Career Connections Week, Matt Guilfoyle, the Director of Communication and Community Relations for FCPS, visited the class for an interactive and in-depth presentation and discussion regarding his position with FCPS, careers in the social media marketing field, and various other ways social media marketing plays into the role of the FCPS Communications Department staff in its entirety.

For Fairfax Academy's Annual Career Connections Week, the class participated in an intensive project called "Mini Project Runway". The students were put into teams of two and had 1.5 hours to design and create a full look on a mini dress form. Their creativity, construction, and ability to work in teams and on a strict deadline was put to the test in this unique classroom project.

For Fairfax Academy's Annual Career Connections Week, the Professional Photography classes participated in an intense week long project called "Learning about Lighting," in which level-two students assisted with the instructions regarding studio lighting and assisted with demonstrating five different lighting styles. Level-two students were able to not only put their knowledge to use, but also take on a leadership role while instructing the level-one students in the subject area of lighting. All levels then participated in in-depth discussions about what types of photo sessions require certain types of lighting, and correlated those types of lighting to certain careers in photography field.

Falls Church Academy:

Biotechnology Foundations takes field trip to Quest Diagnostic

Biotechnology foundations students visited the lab at Quest Diagnostics in Chantilly, VA to observe how medical samples are coded and sorted to be tracked through the lab. Students were given a detailed tour of one of the labs that is supervised by Falls Church High School alum Stephanie Coon. She spoke to the students about some of the less common tests run in her molecular biology lab. Students learned about three different types of genetic material testing: for the presence of a virus, for the amount of virus, and for the specific strain of virus. They also learned why each type of test is useful for different purposes. Since all tests require extracting DNA, the lab has automated some steps. Students were given the opportunity to learn about multiple pathways to becoming a lab supervisor, different certifications needed to work in the lab, with and without direct supervision, and even how to start in the lab with only a high school diploma and continue their education while working in the lab.

Early Childhood Careers students learn from Preschoolers

Introduction to Early Childhood Careers students traveled to Corpus Christi School to observe and interact with the extended day preschoolers. Preschool Director, Ms. Stitch, first explained what skills students would need to apply for a job at Corpus Christi. She mentioned useful courses to take to be more marketable and offered opportunities for service hours during the summer months.

Students were split into pairs and assisted classroom teachers with activities. Some students played alongside the children as they made animals matching the letter for the week. Other students helped transition the children from nap time to circle time where the teacher read a book aloud.

Crime Scene Investigation

Somer Roberts, Fairfax County Crime Scene Investigator, attended the Falls Church Academy Criminal Justice class to present slides of previous crime scenes so students could learn what investigators look for in a crime scene. Students were given the chance to act as if they were the crime scene investigators to learn the process professionals go through to solve crimes. Through the pictures of actual crime scenes students determined if the case was accidental, suicide, or homicide.

West Potomac Academy:

Two students from the West Potomac Academy's **Professional TV Production** class won 2nd place in the regional "Lights, Camera, Save!" competition sponsored by Burke and Herbert Bank. Below is a link to the entry:

[More Sense Means More Cents](#)

West Potomac Academy dental careers level 2 students participated in job shadows which included observations of oral surgeries in various dentist offices during the month of January.

PT/OT students continue to volunteer with special needs students at Belle View Elementary School doing seasonal craft activities practicing fine motor skills and assist students with walking devices practicing their gross motor skills.

Students studying health and medical sciences career courses at The Governor's Health Sciences Academy at West Potomac hosted the 7th annual health and wellness fair, "Passport to Good Health," for children in the West Potomac Head Start Program on February 14 and February 16. The next fair will be held Tuesday, February 28, from 10:10- 11:10 a.m.

Head Start students met and learned from academy students studying Dental Careers, Exploring Health Sciences/Exploring the Language of Medicine, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Tech, and Physical/Occupational Therapy. They learned what happens during a regular check-up with a doctor and

dentist, and how to best brush their teeth properly. They participated in physical and occupational therapy activities to engage gross and fine motor skills. They learned which medications at home are helpful and which could be harmful, and how healthy eating can keep you from getting sick. They made life size drawings of their body systems and learned about how their bodies look and work on the inside.

This “Passport to Good Health” Program is an example of how health and medical science students at The Governor’s Academy reach out to the community to share health and wellness education. Students participate in service learning projects such as Mission of Mercy, Project Smile, and HOSA’s district, state, and national competitions, and volunteer with pediatrics to geriatrics in local elementary schools and retirement home facilities. Starting in spring, students will be placed in clinical observations, internships, and job shadow placements in dental offices, medical facilities, PT clinics, and pharmacies.

Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS):

FCPS students recently competed in the 11th annual FCCLA district level leadership competition which was held at South County High School. FCCLA is a national student organization that encourages young men and women to become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences Education programs. Approximately forty students from the following schools, Lanier MS, Sandburg MS, Glasgow MS, Irving MS, Herndon MS, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Madison HS, competed in thirteen categories of “Star Events.” Eighty-six percent of the students placed first and will continue to the state leadership recognition conference to be held in April at Virginia Beach. Congratulations to all.

Health and Medical Sciences:

On February 6, 2017, Fairfax County Public Schools Health and Medical Sciences students attended the district HOSA event at Chantilly Academy. Just over 300 students participated in competitive events. The results were as follows:

- **Job Seeking Skills:** 1st place—Plum Center
- **Extemporaneous Health Poster:** 1st Place—Chantilly Academy
- **Medical Photography:** 1st Place—Falls Church Academy
- **Clinical Specialty:** 1st Place—West Potomac Academy
- **Career Health Display:** 1st Place—Chantilly Academy
- **HOSA Bowl:** 1st Place—Team Quinn, Chantilly Academy

Marketing:

A South County marketing student has been selected as 1 of 5 CTE students from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the 2017 U.S. Presidential Scholars Award.

Kellen Scott, a marketing teacher at South County High School has been selected as a recipient of a \$1,000 award for DECA Chapter Advisors sponsored by the National Society of High School Scholars. In partnership with DECA, NSHSS has established a Claes Nobel DECA Advisor Leadership Award to

recognize the outstanding contributions of DECA advisors who consistently demonstrate their commitment to preparing students for success in college and in life. This award program is dedicated to recognize outstanding DECA Advisors who model best practices in teaching, are role models among their peers, and demonstrate outstanding leadership and excellence in education. Kellen will receive her award at the Closing Session of the DECA International Career Development Conference to be held on April 26-29, 2017, in Anaheim, California.

Fairfax County Public Schools will be taking 17 charter busses to the Virginia DECA State Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach March 3-5, 2017. Winners from this competition will be eligible to attend the DECA International Career Development Conference to be held on April 26-29, 2017, in Anaheim, California.

Education for Employment (EFE) students from Stuart High School for a SkillsUSA project created get well cards, holiday crafts and ornaments, and filled goodie bags for the Ronald McDonald House-INOVA Falls Church/Greater Washington during the holiday season. The students also hosted a SkillsUSA holiday craft sale, and donated all proceeds to the organization.

On January 28, 2017, the marketing program at Madison High School hosted a “Give-Back-a-Thon” to raise money for *Girl Up*. During the 12-hour event, local business members and teachers taught basic computer coding to the participants. Lunch and dinner for the event were sponsored by Annie Minkler and Willard’s BBQ. More than \$3,000 was raised during this event, all of which will be donated to Girls Learn in Zambia.

Fairfax High School marketing students and their teacher Kay Walters attended the DECA National Advisory Board annual meeting in Washington DC. The students spoke about their experiences in DECA with business and college partners, high school and collegiate Executive Presidents, and DECA staff.

Congratulations to the Oakton High School and Lake Braddock Secondary School marketing students for their 2017 Chapter Certification for their DECA School-Based Enterprise (SBE). To become DECA-Certified, SBEs complete a written project detailing how their business adheres to select model business standards.

The entrepreneurship students from Falls Church High School presented their business plans to E-Trade Management on February 16, 2017.

The fashion marketing students at Langley were busy during the month of January. The students worked backstage at one of the inauguration fashion shows. They also went to the American History museum to view the first lady’s exhibit. This month the students did a spring fashion show at Cooper Middle School.

Technology Education and Engineering:

Thriving engineers in Mr. Guyer’s Technology and Engineering classes participated in showcasing their latest inventions to a panel of potential investors, also known as “sharks”, in Thoreau Middle School’s version of Shark Tank. From the ground up, students created original products or services and used their graphic design abilities to create custom logos, business cards and promotional flyers. The panel of sharks

were entertained by innovative commercials and were persuaded by student's sales pitches to invest in the next million dollar invention.

Trade and Industrial:

Congratulations to the 370 SkillsUSA student members who competed in the SkillsUSA District 5 Leadership and Skill Competition at Edison Academy on February 6, 2017. Ninety students have earned the honor of representing Fairfax County Public Schools at the 53rd SkillsUSA Virginia Leadership and Skill Competition in Fredericksburg, Virginia, April 28-29, 2017.