Career and Technical Education
Highlights for April 2017

Business and Information:

Over 150 FCPS students competed at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference held in Reston, Virginia on April 7 and 8. FCPS placed in 55 of the events with 87 students receiving a medal on stage. Seventy of those students have qualified for the FBLA National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Anaheim, California this summer.

Students enrolled in Digital Input Technology (DIT) at Key Middle School collaborated with the Art Department on a Claymation project. The DIT students took the photos from the 3D Claymation Panorama, and they used Movie Maker to create a Claymation video. The video was submitted to FCPS News. They posted it on FCPS Facebook page and it was awarded the “School News Tip of the Month.”

A student at Centreville High School is awaiting the results of the MOS Spring Qualifier to see if he is eligible for the National Competition. This student took second place in the 2016 MOS State Championship Fall Qualifier for Virginia for his speed and accuracy on the PowerPoint Microsoft Office Specialist Industry Certification Exam.

Students enrolled in Advanced Information Systems at Hayfield Secondary School participated in the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment program (VA STAR) program this year. In the VA STAR program, students refurbish surplus hardware from state agencies or private companies. Once refurbished, these computers are donated to families and organizations who need a computer. At a giveaway event last month, Hayfield students gave all of the rebuilt computers to families in need in the Hayfield community. In addition, the students gave each of the families a short training session on how to use their “new” computer.

Career Experience:

Students from Edison and Marshall Academies visited the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) through a STEM outreach program sponsored by the Women in Homeland Security (WHS) organization. Students were able to tour the command center and learn about the many systems that are used by agencies to monitor the cyber world. The command center is shared by various government departments including military, aviation, and transportation infrastructure. Students learned about the various levels of threat and the constant evolving world of cyber security.

The Fairfax County Division of Vehicle Services (DVS) is offering numerous paid internship opportunities to the automotive technology and collision students in our schools. Representatives from DVS have visited Chantilly, Edison, and Marshall Academies to discuss the positions available, application process, employee expectations, and the benefits of working for this county agency.

On March 31, 2017, 65 young ladies from middle and high schools throughout Fairfax County attended the annual MITRE: Young Women in Engineering event. The girls heard motivational stories from top female engineers and rotated through three workshops in aviation, robotics lab and “the think tank.” In one activity, students were asked to become systems engineers and design mobile apps that could be used for study
groups, school clubs, or school athletics. Later, the students were whisked off to MITRE’s Integration Demonstration and Experimentation for Aeronautics (IDEA) lab, where they got to “fly” the lab’s Boeing 777 cockpit simulator in and out of Dulles International Airport. Students also visited the robotics lab where they saw remote controlled robots used in military operations and heard about the challenges of creating smaller and more efficient robots to use both for military operations and day-to-day living. The event ended with dozens of female MITRE engineers, scientists, mathematicians, and analysts coming together to network with the students to discuss education and career opportunities in STEM.

**Chantilly Academy:**

Last month Chantilly Academy held an annual student job and career fair. Whether it was a student looking for their first part-time job, summer and seasonal job opportunities, or just to learn more about potential career pathways, students found a wealth of exciting prospects at the event. The annual student job and career fair is co-sponsored by Fairfax County Supervisor Kathy Smith and Supervisor Pat Herrity along with the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and Connection Newspapers. More than 50 businesses and agencies attended offering a range of opportunities from part-time employment, internships, and volunteer work for prospective students.

In addition to the job and career fair itself, students were offered a free workshop session held by the Society of Human Resource Management. The staff also had a table set up during the fair for students to get on-site feedback on their resume before talking to an employer.

In partnership with Junior Achievement and Dulles International Airport Ambassadors, Academy students from across the county were invited to take part in a day-long job shadow. The students that participated included the criminal justice program from both Marshall and Chantilly Academies. Students spent the day interacting with a diverse group of airport employees and federal agencies during this high-value, behind-the-scenes field trip. Specific activities included an informative session on airport screening and security with Transportation Security Agency (TSA), tour of the airfield, operations, and ramp tower, K9 unit demonstration, and concluded with a speed mentoring event with over 20 airport employees. Students described the event as informative and exciting. They were able to ask candid questions and receive valuable information from many perspectives on potential career pathways.

**Edison Academy:**

The owner of Michael and Son, Basim Mansour, visited Edison Academy and talked to students about the processes and challenges of growing a successful business as well as what his company looks for in a potential employee. For pictures of the visit go to [Edison Academy’s Facebook page](#).

Edison Academy culinary students had a ‘Chopped’ competition the week before spring break. Mystery ingredients included such things as dill pickles, gummy bears, and shrimp for appetizers; ground turkey, BBQ potato chips, turnips, and marshmallow peeps for entrees; and apples, kiwi, corn chips, and chocolate bunnies for desserts.

Cosmetology students from Edison Academy took part in a job shadow experience at Cartoon Cuts. The students observed salon stylists’ techniques for working with children, instruction on the importance of product sales for the stylist and company and participated in role-play situations with the Director of Salons, D. Patton, to help prepare them for job interviews and a successful career in cosmetology.
**Fairfax Academy:**

Social media marketing students from Fairfax Academy created apps for smart devices for local businesses in/around the Fairfax area and pitched them to the instructor and class in ‘Shark Tank style’ (like the popular television show). Some of the apps designed included apps for Tyson’s Corner Mall, Mobius Records, Chuy’s Mexican Restaurant, and one of the student's own website Sweetbox XOXO.

Fairfax Academy students went on the annual industry visit to New York City. Classes in fashion, TV production, photography, social media marketing, dance and Arabic had individual itineraries. Students got to experience in-depth presentations and discussions with professional fashion designers and photographers, tour world renown companies, and browse national known businesses and make purchases for class projects and equipment they can use to enhance their academy class projects and careers. The Arabic class spent the day in a Lebanese community – eating, speaking, and interacting only in Arabic. The dance class spent the entire weekend in New York City taking master dance classes at STEPS on Broadway, seeing a Broadway show, and learning about professional dance careers from the owner of STEPS.

Two dance students were accepted into the Virginia’s Governor’s school. Each student prepared solos, participated in technique, and completed an intense application process, which includes nominations and recommendations.

Summer Residential Governor's Schools provide gifted high school juniors and seniors with intensive educational experiences in visual and performing arts; humanities; mathematics, science, and technology; or through mentorships in marine science, medicine and health sciences, or engineering. Students applying for the Visual and Performing Arts Summer Residential Governor’s School participate in a statewide adjudication where they audition or present portfolios for review before a pair of professionals in the specific arts field.

Each Summer Residential Governor’s School focuses on one special area of interest. Students live on a college or university campus for up to four weeks each summer. During this time, students are involved in classroom and laboratory work, field studies, research, individual and group projects and performances, and seminars with noted scholars, visiting artists, and other professionals.

Students in Fairfax Academy’s musical theatre and actor’s studio participated in an evening of Cabaret. Students prepared performances including monologues and scenes from musicals and presented to them fellow students, parents, and community members.

A Chinese language student was accepted into the prestigious 2017 NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) scholarship program. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and in the academic year overseas immersion programs. NSLI-Y is part of a U.S. government initiative that prepares American citizens to be leaders in a global world.

The student will be spending the summer in China immersing herself in the language and culture thanks to this esteemed scholarship program.

**Falls Church Academy:**

Students from the Falls Church Academy Fire and EMS course had the opportunity to visit the Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division on March 20th and 27th, coordinated by the Women in Homeland
Security STEM organization. Captain Michael Wall, Fairfax County Police Department Commander, Helicopter Division began the conversation with the students by showing a video entitled “Eye in the Sky”. This video demonstrated actual incidents of the helicopter and crew in action in Fairfax County and surrounding areas. Next, students heard from Fairfax County pilots, police officers and EMT’s who talked with the students about how to assess patients for transport, how to prepare them for flight and the medical and law enforcement equipment available on the aircraft. In addition to the medical aspects of the crew and the apparatus, students learned about inferred cameras, night vision equipment and tracking devices used to find criminals and endangered citizens. Finally, students were given the opportunity to for hands-on exploration of the aircraft. They took great advantage of sitting in the pilot seat and exploring the rest of the helicopter where patients are transported.

Under the watchful and supportive eye of Dr. Amy Canavan, Medical Director of the Pediatric Unit at Iliff Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Falls Church Academy Medical Assistant students brought new life to the walls of the Center. In December, Jamie Gentille, Director of Child Life Services at Inova Children’s Hospital approached Falls Church Academy to ask if students in the various Academy medical programs would like to help provide murals to brighten up the halls of the Rehabilitation Center.

Five students from the Medical Assistant course jumped at the chance and got to work planning their murals. The students and Michele Law, Medical Assistant teacher, met with Dr. Canavan and others on the staff to understand the needs and challenges of the Center. With their collective ideas and understanding the students got to work. One mural has already been completed. Other murals were worked on during spring break. Murals will include outer space, zoo animals, marine life, and cartoon themes. When students saw the kids who were patients there they felt empathy for them and knew they needed something fun and colorful around them to help them heal.

**Marshall Academy:**

Marshall Academy was selected to host ACTE’s annual CTE Month Celebration event. The program included brunch provided by Marshall Academy’s award winning culinary program. Then, presentations were given by LeAnn Wilson, ACTE Executive Director, Beth Downey, FCPS CTE Coordinator, Jeff McFarland, Marshall Academy Administrator and a CTE panel, which included Marshall Academy students, staff, parents and alumni. The event concluded with a tour of academy classes.

On St. Patrick’s Day, Marshall Academy criminal justice students participated in a field trip to NYC. Students toured the 9/11 Museum and Ground Zero to learn about the many changes in law enforcement since the 9/11 attacks.

On March 17, twenty Cyber Security students had the opportunity to job shadow with IT professionals at Salesforce in Herndon. The day include a tour, speaker panel, lunch, and an opportunity to interview one-on-one with the IT Team. The event was coordinated by Junior Achievement.

**West Potomac Academy:**

West Potomac Academy Pharmacy students will be interning with the Walgreens Pharmacies in the months of April and May.
Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS):

Educators Rising (ER) CTSO:

Chantilly Academy students represented Fairfax County at the Virginia Educators Rising competition held at Osbourn High School in Manassas, VA. Seven level 2 Teacher for Tomorrow students placed. Judges were impressed with the students’ professionalism and hard work.

Family, Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) CTSO:

The Family, Careers and Community Leaders of America recognized the following schools as gold level outstanding chapters in 2017. Carl Sandburg Middle School FCCLA, City of Fairfax FCCLA (Lanier MS), and James Madison High School FCCLA.

Real Food For Kids (RFFK) Partnership:

Real Food For Kids Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo was held at Lake Braddock Secondary School on March 11, 2017. Twelve schools participated in the event this year. The increased participation in the event proves that the students are committed to keeping the movement of eating healthy viable. The educational experience that the students gained by applying the skills and knowledge, received through classroom instruction, at the event was phenomenal. Throughout the workshops offered, the students were engaged and working towards improving the cafeteria menu options. Recognition was received by the following challenge competitors: Lake Braddock Secondary School in the category of the 5 Star award, Franklin Middle School – Gold Star Award, Chantilly Academy- Silver Star Award. Recognition was received by the following exhibition participants: The People’s Choice Award went to Glasgow Middle School, the Food and Nutrition Services Choice Award was received by Sandburg Middle School, the Celebrity Choice Award was received by Irving Middle School and the Real Food for Kids Award went to West Potomac High School.

Marketing:

Fairfax High School marketing students led a workshop for Fairfax Academy students on the use of ZeeMee. ZeeMee is a free service that gives students the ability through images and video to document their story and showcase themselves for college admissions. The three Fairfax students that organized this activity will be presenting their project at the DECA International Career Development Conference at the end of April in Anaheim, California.

Two hundred eighty-two students and advisors from Fairfax County Public Schools will be attending the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California April 26 – 29, 2017.

Technology Education and Engineering:

Students in Annandale’s Technology and Engineering program have been competing in the BotBall Robotics program for nearly 20 years. This school year, the students earned a FIRST PLACE in “Team Alliance”, SECOND PLACE in “Cohort”, and THIRD PLACE in “Double Eliminations”. For pictures and videos the competition use this link: Annandale BotBall Robotics Competition pictures and videos.

Students in West Springfield’s Advanced STEM Engineering class had the opportunity to participate in the SNAME Boat Design Challenge. As a part of this challenge, students are required to design and analyze a
12’ powered boat using a fixed amount of sheet steel, standard motor, steering, battery and payload. The goal was to calculate the weight of the boat vs. the weight of the water the boat displaced. Out of 56 teams around VA, DC, and NC, one team from West Springfield was among the top four finalists. As a result, their boat is currently being professionally manufactured by Newport News Shipbuilding and will be available for May 6 Race Day at Mariner’s Museum in Newport News.

Students at Lanier MS continued to dominate again at the VA Regional Competition for the KidWind Challenge taking FIRST PLACE again and qualifying for Nationals in Anaheim, CA. As a part of the competition, students are required to design, build, and test a functional creative wind turbine and are asked general knowledge questions about wind and renewable energy.