Career and Technical Education
Highlights for January 2017

Business and Information Technology Highlights:

A Robinson Secondary School student was awarded the ACTE Region 2 Business Student of the Year Award. This award is designed to provide recognition to outstanding students who have demonstrated leadership potential through enrollment in business courses and involvement in career and technical student organization activities, as well as the school and community. During all four years of high school, the student has been an FBLA officer at either the local, regional or state level, including being the Virginia FBLA State President.

A team of students from Mount Vernon High School is currently ranked first in the state in the FBLA Virtual Business Finance Challenge sponsored by Knowledge Matters. The team called “Making Money Fast” placed first in the state in the first round this past fall and will compete in a second and final round this spring. The Virtual Business Finance Challenge encourages FBLA members to test their financial literacy skills. Participating teams make personal finance decisions for a simulated person. The concepts that students manage include opening bank accounts, paying bills, filing taxes, applying for jobs, enrolling in educational courses, paying for goods, applying for credit cards, determining schedules, budgeting, and more.

Sixteen teams from Frost, Glasgow, Hughes, Kilmer, Twain, and Whitman Middle Schools have been participating in the Middle School CyberPatriot competition this school year. Both the students and teachers have learned a lot in this new endeavor and the students have done exceptionally well. After the second round of competition, FCPS has teams ranked second, ninth, and tenth in the state. The third and final qualifying round took place January 13–15 (results are yet to be posted). The top fifty percent of the middle school teams in the nation will then compete in the semifinals leading up to the National Finals Competition in April. These students and teachers have surpassed our expectations in this first year.

The results from the Fall LifeSmarts Challenge are in and the team Statesmen GECCI S from George C. Marshall High School has placed twelfth in the nation. The LifeSmarts Challenge is an event where “All the practice, preparation, and consumer smarts come together in competition.” The twelve top-scoring teams from the Challenge are eligible to participate at the FBLA National Leadership Conference. For more information on this event and to see a picture of the team from Marshall, please visit the LifeSmarts website.

A Hayfield Secondary School student has been awarded the Best Practice Award from Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program (VA STAR). The VA STAR is a state-wide program that teaches students to refurbish surplus computer hardware from government agencies and private companies. The refurbished computers are then donated to families, organizations, and school districts that wish to use them. The student was presented with her award and $1000 grant at the VA STAR annual meeting in Richmond on January 17.
The Seahawk Cyber Patrol and FBLA at South Lakes High School went to Hanover, Maryland to visit one of the fastest growing IT service companies in the country, VOR-Technology. Information assurance and network defense, cyber security, systems engineering, operational support and sustainment are just a few of the many IT services that VOR Technology specializes in. The students were treated to lunch while they listened to presentations from three different professionals from the company.

Students in Art and Digital Input Technologies classes at Key Middle School combined their talents to create a joint project. The art students created a Claymation project and the Digital Input Technology students took the photos to create a Claymation movie. The video was posted on the FCPS Facebook page.

**Career Experience Highlights:**

**County-Wide:**

The Fairfax County Division of Vehicle Services (DVS) is re-instating an internship for FCPS automotive students. DVS will hire eight students to work in their four facilities located in Fairfax County with a program in the fall and a second program in the spring. Students will work as automotive technicians or in the parts department alongside a DVS mentor who will share tools and expertise with the interns. The internship had existed in years past, but was cut due to budget constraints.

**Edison Academy:**

A local non-profit, Computer C.O.R.E., hired two student interns from the Academy’s Information Technology classes to work in their Leesburg Pike location. Interns will be assisting Information Technology instructors and providing general computer/technical and office support.

The Career Experience Specialist provided Resume Building workshops for ninety Cosmetology students to improve their career readiness.

Navy Federal Credit Union volunteers conducted Reality Store personal financial management workshops on November 21 and 28 for one hundred ninety eight students from the Edison Academy.

Edison Academy’s Counselor and Career Experience Specialist hosted thirty AVID students from Irving Middle School for a visit to the Academy to tour classrooms, and hear from Academy student ambassadors.

**Fairfax Academy:**

Fairfax Academy Professional Photography students have been invited to the DC Convention Center on January 30, in order to photograph the entire Washington Auto Show for The Washington Area New Auto Dealers Association (WANADA). During the event, approximately thirty students will get the opportunity to utilize the skills obtained thus far from the Professional Photography class to produce professional pictures for automobile ads, effectively communicate with clients, manage models and staff, develop social media marketing for the event, use HDR photography, and put their knowledge of Photoshop to use in order to edit and enhance the pictures. In turn, these students are able to use this experience as their project/entries for the Skills USA contest this upcoming year, which WANADA has offered to support them through this endeavor in its entirety.
Two Fairfax Academy photography students were hired by local magazines, Unclear and Tongue Tied, for their work in concert photography and editorial photography.

FCPS recently did a feature on the entire Fashion Careers class. It features students in action, interviews from students and teachers, and all of the industry-grade equipment in the class. You can view it on YouTube, Fashion Design at Fairfax Academy.

A group of Professional Television Production students produced a professional promotional video for Edison Academy. It is a 3-minute video that will be used for all public relations aspects by the Academy. The project was student created from conception to completion.

**Falls Church Academy:**

Iliff Nursing and Rehab is looking for a cheery facelift for their Pediatric Unit and has asked students in the Falls Church Academy Medical Assistant courses to help make that happen. Dr. Amy Canavan, Medical Director of the Center contacted the Academy to ask if students could design and complete murals in four sections with various decorating themes; imagine space, ocean, farm animals, and jungle animals. Although not directly medical related work, the students are excited to help the healing process of their young patients by creating a fun and friendly atmosphere. In addition, students are excited to work in this medical environment to gain knowledge through observation and professional contacts. Students are currently designing the murals on paper and then meeting with the Iliff staff to get their ideas approved before beginning the wall drawing and painting.

For the second year Inova Cares Clinic has offered observership experiences to students in the Medical Assistant program at Falls Church Academy. Each week beginning in January through May, different pairs of students will have the opportunity to shadow and observe professional medical assistants working at Inova Cares Clinic in the OB/GYN and Pediatric offices. Students observe first-hand patient in-take, history taking, and baseline vital signs. They will also observe some procedures as approved by the patient and staff. One student said “after this experience I feel very motivated to continue to pursue my dream to be a part of the medical world.”

Students from the Early Childhood Careers program have begun job shadow experiences with Bright Horizons Family Solutions Child Care Center, Corpus Christi School, and Northern VA Montessori School to learn the various educational strategies of each school’s teaching philosophies. They will observe each learning center two times and write a paper comparing and contrasting their findings.

On February 10, students from the Dental Careers 1 and 2 courses will have the opportunity to assist with Give Kids a Smile, a program that provides free oral health services to underserved children. This experience will give these Falls Church Academy Dental students the chance to observe direct pediatric patient care from intake to procedure and check-out. In March, students will have the opportunity to work with Mission of Mercy that provides dental care to underserved adult patients.
Marshall Academy:

On December 8, Marshall Academy hosted its annual Marshall Academy Experience for school counselors, ETRs, and other FCPS staff. The day included a brunch prepared and hosted by Marshall Culinary, academy tour, and student and teacher panels. Participants ended the day by buying holiday gifts at the Entrepreneurship Program’s Holiday Market Day.

On November 22, Marshall Academy’s Level 1 Entrepreneurship students participated in a field trip to NYC sponsored by FATE. Entrepreneurship students toured the city including the wholesale district to purchase merchandise for market days. Students learned to research market trends, negotiate pricing, marketing, and administrative expertise. On December 8, students hosted Holiday Market Day in GCM’s Cafeteria. Student teams offered various items including electronics, accessories, clothing, jewelry, etc.

Mr. Birch and Mr. Ponsart’s Criminal Justice students volunteered with the United Airlines Fantasy Flight Program for terminally ill children in the D.C./Northern Virginia area. They spent multiple hours in the evenings of the week of December 5-9 helping to transform several gates in the D terminal at Dulles airport into a “North Pole” destination for a celebration party for the children. United has been sponsoring and conducting this event to bring some joy to these children, who are battling numerous illnesses, and their families. The event begins with a short 30 minute flight and lands at a festive location that includes games, food, musical performances, face painting, celebrity guests such as the mascots of the Nationals, Capitals, and Wizards and of course a visit with Santa that includes presents. Marshall Academy was the only school to participate this year. Students and teachers volunteered over 15 service learning hours.

The US Park Police visited Criminal Justice classes to talk about opportunities with the park police and day-to-day operations. Officers brought two horses with them, which was very exciting for both students and staff. Horses are donated to the US Park Police. For more information: United States Park Police is seeking horses. The United States Park Police was created by President George Washington in 1791. The Force functions as a unit of the National Park Service with jurisdiction in all Federal parks. U.S. Park Police officers are located in the Washington, DC, New York City, and San Francisco metropolitan areas, and investigate and detain persons suspected of committing offenses against the United States. Officers also carry out services for many notable events conducted in the national parks.

On December 12, Marshall Academy hosted guest speakers from Arthur Christine Salon and Hair Cuttery. Arthur Christine Salon located in Vienna, is an innovative salon owned by husband and wife team, Dusan and Rachel Grant. Rachel and her daughter, Faith, who is also a beauty apprentice, presented on careers in the beauty world. In addition to owning Arthur Christine, Dusan and Rachel have a fashion and make-up line.

The Hair Cuttery presentation focused on promoting careers in the hair and make-up industry, demonstrated styling techniques, and promoted opportunities with the company.
Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Highlights:

Fashion Design Academy at Fairfax HS created a video addressing the importance and purpose of the design process in a student’s education. It is an OUTSTANDING view of the talent and instruction taking place in the FACS program highlighting how the design process influences other content areas and careers. [Fashion Design at Fairfax Academy YouTube Video](#)

Lake Braddock Technology Education and Engineering (TEE) students utilized their newly acquired skills to design, construct, and manufacture personalized table top toss games. This project reinforces concepts of math as well as reinforcing the importance of gross motor skill development included in the childcare portion of the FACS content. TEE students learned how to create images, logos, and specialty designs using sublimation technologies. Family & Consumer Science students honed their understanding of textiles and applied their skills of machine operation to create bean bags. Students learned hand sewing techniques, machine stitching, and when to apply the correct technique. Each FACS student was responsible for making a certain amount of bags by a particular date to meet the quota required for each toss game which effectively demonstrated work place readiness skills within the world of manufacturing.

All students learned about product quality control, distribution methods, and deadlines. All students demonstrated the understanding of the design process, applied work place readiness skills utilized in today’s marketing, manufacturing of products and the importance of collaboration, communication and cooperation within the workforce. The concepts within these two content areas, shine in regard to fostering a student’s growth and preparation for their careers.

Hughes MS students and teachers experienced growth and professional development through blended learning. Technology Education and Engineering (TEE) and Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) teachers set out to determine how the skills learned and the equipment provided in TEE and FACS content areas could be used to develop instructional connections. The problem was identified and the design process evident in TEE and FACS content areas unfolded. Teachers presented the design process to combined 7 and 8 grade level students. Following much inquiry and discussion the project of creating a cookie cutter using the 3-D printer followed by making cookies began.

The execution of the project was carried out beginning with sketches that met specific measured parameters, once approved, by review consultants, the design was sent to the 3-D machine operator. The instruction that the teachers provided starting with inquiry, moving onto group discussion, obtaining feedback and then development of a prototype is essential to blended learning.

Once the product was manufactured the students utilized the one of a kind cookie cutters in a food lab. The students were able to solve a problem, create a product, and use the product to create an enjoyable treat while developing connections between content, skills, and peers.
Marketing Highlights:

The Entrepreneurship 2 students from Chantilly Academy took a day trip to Refraction in Reston Town Center. Refraction is a unique co-working community serving business leaders, creatives, and philanthropists in Northern Virginia. Refraction helps businesses create more dynamic teams to grow their company.

Forty-five South County HS marketing students continued the tradition and visited the Higher Horizons Head Start program before winter break. They spent two hours doing crafts, dancing, playing games, and reading to the over 175 children. In addition, they donated over 220 wrapped bilingual books for each student.

Marketing students from eleven Fairfax County high schools participated in the Fair Oaks Holiday gift wrap center. The gift wrap center is operated by the Fair Oaks Mall marketing program. The gift wrap center is open from Black Friday until Christmas Eve. The proceeds from this entrepreneurial endeavor are given back to the schools that participate.

The advanced marketing students from Oakton are working on a creative marketing project with their school newspaper Outlook. The project is to increase the amount of viewers and the income the paper receives from advertising sales.

Virginia DECA President from Marshall High School met Governor Terry McAuliffe when he signed the Career and Technical Education proclamation. She along with the other Career and Technical Education Student Organization Presidents also promoted CTE at the General Assembly in Richmond.

The Advanced Fashion Marketing/Advanced Marketing classes from Fairfax High School practiced their marketing research skills with a focus group learning to use ZeeMee (see Zeemee Website). ZeeMee is a free service that gives you the ability through images and video to document your story, showcase yourself for college admissions, and connect with other students based on passions and interests. ZeeMee was started with the mission to empower all students to bring their story to life.

As a component of the marketing research process, students shared their findings with ZeeMee executives. Over 200 colleges and universities as well as the common app request ZeeMee directly in their application.

Fashion marketing students from Marshall, McLean, and Woodson High Schools toured the fashion district in New York City. The students toured Grinnell, a jewelry factory and showroom, Pacific Trim, and Mood Fabrics, and had the opportunity to meet Elizabeth Gillett a scarf designer and visit the showroom of Amy Matto.

Congratulations to South County DECA and their marketing teachers, Kellen Scott and Sarah Hinkhouse for winning the DECA Inc. Staff Favorite Award in the @deca images Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest.

McLean marketing students recently stocked the store @WomenGivingBack, a local organization that provides clothing to women and children in crisis.
Technology Education and Engineering Highlights:

See Family and Consumer Sciences Highlights for collaborative efforts at Lake Braddock Secondary School and Hughes Middle School.

Trade and Industrial Highlights:

This year, the automotive technology programs in conjunction with Student Auto Sales of the Foundation for Applied Technical Education, Inc. (FATE) will feature a refurbished and ready to sell Ford Expedition at the 2017 Washington Auto Show in Washington D.C. The display will also feature three student-built mini bikes that were completed during the 2016 Tech Adventure Camp.