

## Career and Technical Education Highlights for January 2023

### **Business and Information Technology:**

#### ***Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program***

Hayfield Secondary School's VA STAR program presented 50 refurbished laptops to Wounded Warriors from Fort Belvoir. Students sat down with the wounded warriors and explained how to setup and personalize their computers as well as talk about life experiences. The Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program (VA STAR) is an after-school club in schools across the Commonwealth of Virginia. These students refurbish computers and work toward IT industry standard certifications. The program helps teach students to refurbish surplus computer hardware from government agencies and private companies. The refurbished computers are donated to families, organizations, and school districts at no cost. Students in VA STAR work towards industry-standard certifications which can pave the way for both higher education and well-paying jobs.

#### ***CyberPatriot***

After three rounds of competition, the CyberPatriot team from Hughes Middle School is currently in first place in the state in the Middle School Division. Their next round of competition is in January! CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition, run by the Air and Space Forces Association, which puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. Through a series of online competition rounds, teams are given a set of virtual operating systems and are tasked with finding and fixing cybersecurity vulnerabilities while maintaining critical services. The top teams in the nation earn all-expenses-paid trips to Maryland for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.

#### ***Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)***

FBLA students from Edison, Lake Braddock, and Robinson all had students who placed in the top three in the state for the FBLA Business Battle event last month. A student from Edison took third place in the nation in the Accounting and Financial Management, while a student from Lake Braddock took first place in the nation in the Business Basics event.

Over the past few months, a senior at Edison High School has worked with the FBLA national officer team to create a variety of videos showcasing the work of members and advisers in the organization. His video was shown at the FBLA National Fall Leadership Conferences this November in Denver and

Orlando. The video was also shown to audiences totaling over 2,500 members, advisers, and other stakeholders. This speaks to the student's creative prowess, leadership, and ability to engage others through his designs.

### **Family and Consumer Sciences:**

#### ***Beanies for Veterans***

Family and Consumer Sciences students at Luther Jackson MS made 100 beanies for Veterans this year. This was a service project. Students used donated t-shirts as the lining of the beanies, the exterior of the hat was made from fleece remaining from projects of previous years. Students also made cards for veterans. The items were delivered to a non-profit that will make sure veterans receive them.

#### ***Real Food for Kids***

Franklin MS attended the debut of their Real Food for Kids winning recipe, Vegita Wrapadilla at Chantilly Academy. Food and Nutrition Services adapted the winning recipe to be served in the school cafeteria within FCPS. This event allows students a voice in their healthy choices.

#### ***Design and Ice Cream Company***

Family and Consumer Science students (and other department students) at Woodson HS received a \$1,000 grant through Educate Fairfax for cross curricular project involving the design of an Ice Cream company. Students were tasked to design ice cream companies including the marketing plan, and the flavor concepts. Art students collaborated by designing packaging for the flavors. Foods and Hospitality students created recipes and a pop-up ice cream parlor. Nutrition and Wellness students analyzed the recipes for nutritional value and create the labels. Photography students created photo layouts for promotional materials. Students will have the opportunity to visit JAKE's Ice cream in Falls Church to tour the business, hear from the founder and employees, and create their own flavors onsite.

#### ***Region 3 Principal Meeting***

Mount Vernon Culinary Arts students hosted the Region 3 Principals Meeting by serving a full course English Breakfast.

#### ***Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)***

As part of the FCCLA, Stone MS has an after-school program, Sewing for Others Club. Students used their machine operational skills to make 25 winter hats for Beech Tree Elementary school.

## **Marketing:**

### ***Holiday Events***

The marketing students at Annandale High School implemented a school-wide holiday food drive between Thanksgiving and Christmas and raised hundreds of items of food for local families in need.

Two DECA students at Oakton High School, launched a Holiday Market, including Candy Cane Grams. They developed a stellar promotional plan, generating lots of interest and sales over a three-day period. We are busy at Oakton DECA, and the advisors couldn't be prouder!

The Westfield High School marketing students have been busy over the last few months. In October, they painted pumpkins and gave them out to local businesses. In November the students sent thank you letters to the soldiers in Fort Campbell in Kentucky, as well as sending letters of gratitude to their teachers. In December their school-based enterprise, The Dog Pound Depot joined forces with another department to design and sell t-shirts for inclusion week. The students also organized and ran a school-wide toy drive.

Fairfax High School marketing students in Kay Walters classes did a Holiday Company Profile research project.

The Fair Oaks Classroom on the Mall and Centreville Fashion Marketing students staffed Dulles Town Center's Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Friday, December 2. Students helped children write letters to Santa, make holiday crafts, event registration, and visits with Santa.

### ***Market Days***

Chantilly and South County High School entrepreneurship programs held their annual Market Days. This opportunity allows students to showcase their small business ventures for 2 days during their school lunch periods.

### ***The Cougar Coffee Den***

Over the last couple of months Oakton High School marketing students and staff have been extremely busy. Sixty students qualified for the Virginia DECA State Leadership Conference. This fall, the marketing program launched a Student-Based Enterprise - the Cougar Coffee Den, a student run, staff coffee shop. Three 12th grade DECA students, have not only been able to achieve high quality coffee and baked goods service, once a week, but have created an incredible brand image for themselves across the entire school. They have introduced seasonal drinks and bakery products, pre-order, delivery services, and most recently Cougar Coffee Den gift cards. Sales revenue has exceeded \$1,300 over the last two months, with only once a week opening for 45 minutes before school.

### ***DECA District Leadership Conference***

On December 1, 2022, 745 Fairfax County Public School marketing students from 22 high schools competed in the virtual DECA District Leadership Conference. The DECA competitive events program is aligned to the National Curriculum in the career clusters of marketing, business management, finance and hospitality and tourism. Four hundred and twenty-eight students were recognized for finishing in the top 3 in the industry-validated test and/or the role-play situation.

Two hundred and fifteen students won their way to attend and compete at the Virginia DECA State Leadership Conference March 3 - 5, 2023 in Virginia Beach. Top winners from the state competition will be eligible to compete at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida April 22 - 25, 2023.

### **Technology and Engineering Education:**

#### ***Smart Biz Event***

CTE and STEAM students from Chantilly Academy, West Springfield HS, Braddock ES, and Weyanoke ES represented FCPS at the Smart Biz event sponsored by Cox Business. The event showcased innovation in education and our students showed off their technology, entrepreneurship, coding, and engineering skills to business leaders. The students learned from one another and showed our superintendent some of the authentic learning happening in our classrooms!

#### ***Engineering 2 Guest Visit***

Students in James Shabazz's Engineering 2 class at Walt Whitman MS were visited by Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Christopher Grady and his wife Christine Grady. Students were given an engineering design challenge where they had to build a structure that could support a can of tomatoes. Adm. and Mrs. Grady were impressed by the designs and innovative thinking of our students!

### **Trade and Industrial Education:**

#### ***Automotive Technology***

Dominic Prakash and David Plum, Auto Technology teachers from Lake Braddock SS, were featured on FCPS Our Heroes! Prakash and Plum are FCPS grads, lifelong friends, and veteran teachers who have more than 50 combined years of teaching. Read the [FCPS article](#) for more about this dynamic duo!

#### ***Carpentry***

Former Chantilly Academy Carpentry student and FCPS graduate, Allie Stuebner, is working as part of a unique project while attending the University College in Dublin. She and her classmates are part of a project to replicate the living environment during the medieval times in Ireland. Allie has found the skills

obtained while taking Carpentry, such as framing walls and roofs, have been essential in her efforts as part of the project.

## **JROTC:**

### ***J-100 Character-in-Leadership Scholarship***

The Air Force Junior ROTC sponsors a J-100 Character-in-Leadership Scholarship each year. This scholarship is a 4-year, fully funded ROTC scholarship for a Junior ROTC cadet to attend any university (with an AFROTC program) and learn in any program of study. Based on the selected university, the scholarship could be worth as much as \$250,000. There are 870 AFJROTC units and over 125,000 cadets globally. Only 200 cadets are selected for the interview; only 100 will be named scholarship recipients.

Chantilly Academy AFJROTC is proud to announce that one of their Cadet's has been selected as a Finalist for this scholarship! He will now go through an interview process (between 12-16 December).

### ***CSAF Flight Academy***

Congratulations to the Chantilly Academy Air Force JROTC cadets who participated in the CSAF Flight Academy! The Air Force Chief of Staff (CSAF) offers a Flight Academy opportunity to Air Force Junior ROTC cadets worldwide. This scholarship (worth between \$20K - \$25K) pays for a cadet to attend an 8-week flight academy program over the summer that grants the cadet a Private Pilot's license upon completion. This is an extraordinary opportunity and is also highly competitive. Way to go!