



**GRIFFISS
INSTITUTE**
CENTER FOR INFORMATION ASSURANCE

TechTime

AFRL 2014

Challenge Competition

Participants:

Central Valley Academy

Teachers: Wes Laurion
Students: Benjamin Matthews
& Joshua DeNigro

**Frankfort-Schuyler
High School**

Teacher: Joseph Cantales
Students: Alexandra Casamento &
Shauna Wardle

Holy Cross Academy

Teacher: Norie Belanger
Students: Gabriel Esparza &
Michael Stadelmaier

New Hartford High School

Teacher: Anthony Surace
Students: Suveer Desai &
Siraj Zaman

New York Mills High School

Teacher: Michael Eramo
Students: Jason Browne &
Matthew Adroved

**Owen D. Young
Central School**

Teacher: Jeffrey Rupp
Students: Dustin Monk &
Ryan Crouse

**Vernon-Verona-Sherrill
Central School**

Teacher: Michael Dunne
Students: Brandon Hilts &
Brad Nellenbach

Westmoreland High School

Teacher: Nick Darrah
Students: Kyle Mizgala &
Andrew Zimmerman

Whitesboro High School

Teacher: Stephen Costanza
Students: Sam Marthage &
Megan Renz

AFRL 2014 Challenge Competition



Problem Statement: Tactical Networking

Conceive and Describe Strategies for Tactical Networking to Route Packets from Senders to Recipients.

The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate and the Griffiss Institute (GI) partnered to hold the 6th Annual Challenge Competition during the 2014 Spring recess.

10 teams from local high schools competed to win paid summer internships at local technology companies.

The winners of this years competition were Sam Marthage and Megan Renz from Whitesboro High School taking 1st place (top right); Benjamin Matthews and Joshua DeNigro from Central Valley Academy in 2nd place (middle right) Andrew Zimmerman and Kyle Mizgala from Westmoreland High School taking 3rd place (bottom right).

The winning students were able to choose from 4 available internships and 2 iPad Minis. Sam and Megan will be interning at AFRL over the summer of 2014, Benjamin and Joshua at Griffiss Institute. Kyle and Andrew received new iPad Minis as their prize.



AFRL STEM Outreach Program

The goal of the outreach program is to foster a new generation of scientists, mathematicians, engineers and technologists who will one day discover and problem solve in the nation's defense laboratories and other supporting US companies. In order to achieve this goal there must be a concerted effort to connect business, government foundations, institutions of higher education, professional organizations, schools, teachers and students.

Other STEM programs available through AFRL's STEM outreach program:

- LEGO Mindstorm Robots
- DimensionU
- Cyber Patriot
- Lab TV
- Tours of AFRL
- MATHCOUNTS

For addition information please visit the STEM initiatives page on the GI website.

www.griffissinstitute.org

Many thanks goes out to our Corporate Sponsors without whom this competition would not be possible.

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Alfonso Thomas, Chief Engineer and Mayor Fusco, address the students at the awards ceremony.



The Challenge Competition is an annual competitive STEM initiative for local high school students. It is held during a week when students are on a school break and it's intent is to provide a more realistic view into the types of high tech problems our nation is facing and how engineers and researchers go about dissecting and solving these problems. The best explanation we have to describe the competition is "mental marathon".

All the students who participate work for an entire week to solve the challenge problem. Many find that it is the first time they had ever had a problem to solve that encompasses what they learn in every academic area in school, from Politics, to English, to Math and Science.

Also for many of the participants, being able to spend a week bouncing ideas off local engineers is an incredible benefit and opportunity.

It gives many of the participants a new perspective on the field of engineering and they get to learn a little more about what some of the companies here in Oneida County and on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park do.

STEM Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

The 2014 Challenge Competition built upon the successes of the previous 5 competitions and we anticipate that it will continue to improve each year and offer our students many more exciting opportunities.



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