

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2023

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2023 AFRL Challenge Competition Awards Ceremony Six Local High School Teams Compete in STEM Challenge During Spring Break



What: 2023 AFRL Challenge Competition Awards Ceremony

Where: Griffiss Institute, 592 Hangar Rd. STE 200, Rome, NY 13441

When: Friday, April 14, 2023

Who: The AFRL Challenge Competition is an annual competitive STEM initiative for local high schoolers. Local community members are invited to the annual awards ceremony to celebrate the creative, and innovative designs students created throughout the week.

Why: The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate and Griffiss Institute bring the 2023 Annual Challenge Competition to Innovare Advancement Center this week from April 10-14, 2023.

The Challenge Competition is an annual competitive STEM initiative for local high school students. The 2023 challenge is "Using visual patterns as a new approach for human-readable artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML)". The Challenge Competition is held during the week when students are on Spring break and the goal is to provide a more realistic view of the types of high-tech problems the nation is facing today, and how engineers and researchers go about dissecting and solving these problems. Previous students describe the week and its challenges as a "mental marathon," and the top team will be awarded scholarships through their respective NY 529 accounts.

The AFRL Challenge Competition gives many of the participants a new perspective on the field of engineering, and they get to learn more about the work that takes place at the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, and the Griffiss Institute.

Each high school team will consist of a teacher and two students. Each school selects the teacher and students who will be participating, and only one team per school is granted participation.

On Friday, April 14, 2023, a poster session will be presented to parents and VIPs 11:30 am. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 12:00 pm; parents, local dignitaries and the media are invited to celebrate the efforts of our local students.

The six area high school teams participating in the 2023 Challenge are as follows:

- Central Valley Academy
- Holland Patent High School
- Holy Cross Academy
- Rome Free Academy
- Westmoreland High School
- Whitesboro High School

This year's AFRL Challenge Competition is sponsored by Sovena Group, Stewart's Shops, LaRoma's Pizza, Moe's Southwest Grill, Crust Restaurant and Market 32.

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About Griffiss Institute:

The Griffiss Institute (GI) is a nonprofit talent and technology accelerator for the United States Department of Defense and an international network of academic, government and industry partners. Since 2002, the GI has served the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI), the Mohawk Valley region, and the United States, empowering diverse teams with talent and technology development programs that lead the nation in technical and economic impact. Devoted to converging teams and technologies to solve complex national challenges, GI is proud to enable its international network from its home at Innovare Advancement Center in New York's picturesque Mohawk Valley. For more information visit: griffissinstitute.org and innovare.org. You belong here.

About AFRL STEM Outreach Program:

The goal of the AFRL STEM 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 U.S. companies. To achieve this goal there must be a concerted effort to connect businesses, government foundations, institutions of higher education, professional organizations, schools, teachers, and students. For additional information please visit the STEM initiatives page at griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM

About Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate:

With headquarters in Rome, NY, the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) research vector develops novel and affordable Command, Control, Communications, Computing, Cyber, and Intelligence (C4I) technologies. RI is recognized as a national asset and leader in C4I. Refining data into information and knowledge for decision-makers to command and control forces is what we do. This knowledge gives our air, space, and cyberspace forces the competitive advantage needed to protect and defend this great nation. afri.af.mil