

AFRL 2015 Challenge Competition



AFRL 2015
Challenge Competition
Participants:

Brookfield Central School
Teacher: Jona Snyder
Students: Matthew Harrison
Alexander Harris

Central Valley Academy
Teacher: Wes Laurion
Students: Cody Messina
Drew Vilardi

Frankfort-Schuyler High School
Teacher: Christopher Snell
Students: Nicholas Spina
Allison Wright

Holland Patent High School
Teacher: Daniel O'Bryan
Students: Matthew Milone
Brian Hillier

New York Mills High School
Teacher: Michael Eramo
Students: Sara Zarnoch
Mikah Inkawich

Oriskany Central High School
Teacher: Teresa Mann
Students: Joshua Reid
Brian McMahon

Rome Free Academy
Teacher: Brian Connery
Students: Jackson Kessler
Ryan Gannon

Westmoreland High School
Teacher: Nick Darrah
Students: Matthew Calogero
Stephen Cosco

PROBLEM STATEMENT: PREDICTIVE MODELING

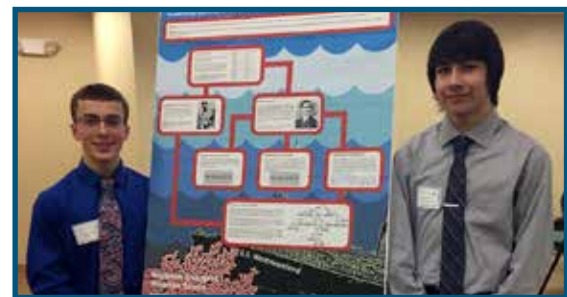
Construct a Predictive Model Using a Dataset To Perform Exploratory Analysis

The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate and the Griffiss Institute (GI) partnered to hold the **7th Annual Challenge Competition** during the 2015 Spring recess.

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

The winners of this years competition were **Matthew Calogero** and **Stephen Cosco**, from Westmoreland High School, taking 1st place (top right); **Mikah Inkawich** and **Sara Zarnoch**, from New York Mills High School, in 2nd place (middle right); and **Matthew Milone** and **Brian Hiller**, from Holland Patent High School, taking 3rd place (bottom right).

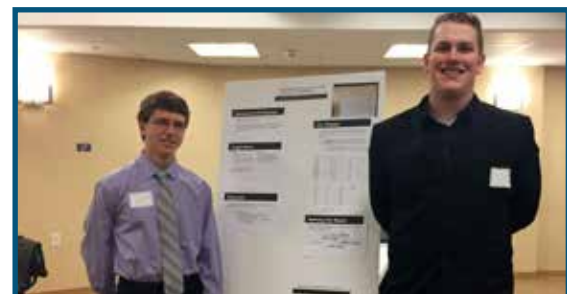
The winning students were able to choose from four available internships and two iPad Minis. Matthew C. and Stephen will be interning at AFRL over the summer of 2015, while Mikah and Sara will intern at the Griffiss Institute. Matthew M. and Brian received new iPad Minis as their prize.



1ST PLACE:
Matthew Calogero and Stephen Cosco,
from Westmoreland High School



2ND PLACE:
Sara Zarnoch and Mikah Inkawich,
from New York Mills High School



3RD PLACE:
Brian Hiller and Matthew Milone,
from Holland Patent High School

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
- Tours of AFRL

For additional information please visit the STEM initiatives page on the Griffiss Institute website: www.griffissinstitute.org

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

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STEM SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

The 2015 Challenge Competition built upon the successes of the previous six competitions, and we anticipate that it will continue to improve each year and offer our students many more exciting opportunities.

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 the work that takes place at the Air Force Research Lab and Griffiss Institute.



Joseph Fusco, Jr., Mayor of Rome, attended the Challenge and spoke to students and attendees.



AFRL Director, George Duchak, addresses the students at the awards ceremony.

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