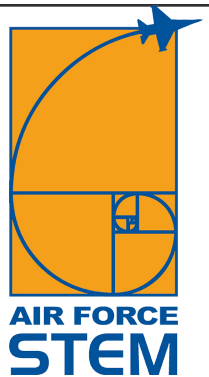


## AFRL 2018 Challenge Competition



**2018**

**AFRL Challenge Competition  
Participants:**

**Central Valley Academy**

Teacher: Wes Laurion  
Students: Dakota Turk  
Dale Windecker

**Frankfort-Schuyler High School**

Teacher: Christopher Snell  
Students: Roman Shikula  
John Tofani

**New York Mills High School**

Teacher: Michael Eramo  
Students: Angela Chen  
Abbey Copperwheat

**Rome Free Academy**

Teacher: Albert Bangs  
Students: Chris Incorvala  
Ian Kohli

**Sauquoit Valley High School**

Teacher: Michael Eisinger  
Students: Danielle Mangini  
Chris Mazza

**Thomas R. Proctor High School**

Teacher: Saing Ung  
Students: Toan Phan  
Luis Terron

**Westmoreland Central School**

Teacher: Nick Darrah  
Students: Karsten Bratge  
Stephen Foley

**Whitesboro Central High School**

Teacher: Stephen Costanza  
Students: Reid Burkdorf  
Maheen Qureshi

## PROBLEM STATEMENT: OPTIMIZING PRODUCT DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS



The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) and the Griffiss Institute (GI), once again partnered to

hold the **10th Annual Challenge Competition** during the 2018 Spring recess, as one of their joint STEM initiatives. The weeklong program was once again "Powered by AT&T."

Eight teams from local high schools competed to win paid summer internships at AFRL/RI and the GI, as well as Microsoft Surface Pro's.

The winners of this year's competition were **Maheen Qureshi** and **Reid Burkdorf**, from **Whitesboro Central School**, taking 1st place (top right); **Angela Chen** and **Abbey Copperwheat**, from **New York Mills School**, in 2nd place (middle right); and **Danielle Mangini** and **Chris Mazza**, from **Sauquoit Valley School**, taking 3rd place (bottom right).

Reid and Maheen will be interning at AFRL/RI over the summer of 2018, while Angela and Abbey will intern at the GI. All three of the winning teams received Microsoft Surface Pro's, and the remaining five teams all took home \$100 Amazon gift cards!



**1ST PLACE:** Whitesboro Central High School students Maheen Qureshi and Reid Burkdorf, stand with teacher, Stephen Costanza.



**2ND PLACE:** New York Mills Union Free School students Abbey Copperwheat and Angela Chen, stand with teacher, Michael Eramo.



**3RD PLACE:** Sauquoit Valley High School teacher Michael Eisinger, stands with students, Danielle Mangini and Chris Mazza.

## 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 Robotics
- DimensionU
- Cyber Patriot
- STEM Summer Programs
- Tours of AFRL

For additional information please visit the STEM initiatives page on the Griffiss Institute website:

[www.griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM](http://www.griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM)

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

### Contact Information:

#### Jeffrey DeMatteis

Air Force Research Lab

p: 315-330-7132

e: [RRS.STEM.Outreach@us.af.mil](mailto:RRS.STEM.Outreach@us.af.mil)

#### Tracy DiMeo

Griffiss Institute

p: 315-356-2680

# STEM SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH

The 2018 AFRL Challenge Competition built upon the successes of the previous nine competitions, and we anticipate that it will continue to improve each year and offer our students many more exciting opportunities.

The AFRL Challenge Competition is an annual 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 to describe the competition is a "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.



New York State Senator Joseph A. Griffo, addresses students, teachers, and family members, at the awards ceremony.



Dr. Paul Antonik, Chief Scientist at AFRL/RI, addresses the attendees at the 10th Annual Challenge Competition as the Keynote Speaker.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS



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[www.griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM](http://www.griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM)