The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI), in partnership with the Griffiss Institute (GI), are proud to have hosted the 11th Annual AFRL Challenge Competition, as one of their joint STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) initiatives, during the week of April 15 – 19, 2019, at Griffiss Institute, in Rome, New York.

Ten 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 Jessica Ritz and Kim Rivera, from Clinton Central School, taking first place (top right); Ryan Janis and John Tofani, from Frankfort-Schuyler Central School, in second place (middle right); and Wesley Appler and Joshua Macera, from Oriskany Central School, taking third place (bottom right).

Ritz and Rivera, as the first place winners, had the option to choose their prize; paid summer internships at either, the Air Force Research Laboratory or Griffiss Institute, or Microsoft Surface Pro’s. They chose to intern at AFRL/RI over the summer of 2019, while Janis and Tofani chose to take home the Microsoft Surface Pro’s, and Appler and Macera will intern at the Griffiss Institute.
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 Camps
- Tours of AFRL

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Jeffrey DeMatteis  
Air Force Research Lab  
315-330-7132  
RRS.STEM.Outreach@us.af.mil

Tricia Frattasio  
Griffiss Institute  
stem@griffissinstitute.org

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**CENTRAL VALLEY ACADEMY**  
Students: Dale Windecker and Carter Wynn  
Teacher: Wes Laurion

**CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Jessica Ritz and Kim Rivera  
Teacher: Theresa Chesebro

**FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Ryan Janis and John Tofani  
Teacher: Christopher Snell

**HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Emmalee Howard and Jacqueline Mann  
Teacher: Richard Zacek

**HOLY CROSS ACADEMY**  
Students: Noelle DiRuzzo and Lily Domes  
Teacher: John DiRuzzo

**ORISKANY CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Wesley Appler and Joshua Macera  
Teacher: Teresa Mann

**REMSEN CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Sydney Boucher and Shaun Graves  
Teacher: Dan O’Bryan

**ROME FREE ACADEMY**  
Students: Elena Davis and Chris Incorvaia  
Teacher: Albert Bangs

**VERNON-VERONA-SHERRILL CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Nathan Angell and Eric Surprenant  
Teacher: Sondra Whalen

**WESTMORELAND CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
Students: Austen Bowers and Jarrett Flint  
Teacher: Nick Darrah

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**2019 AFRL CHALLENGE COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS**

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Keynote Speaker, Colonel Timothy J. Lawrence, Director at the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, addresses the attendees at the 11th Annual Challenge Competition.

Mayor of the City of Rome, New York, Jackie Izzo, addresses students, teachers, and family members, at the 11th Annual Challenge Competition awards ceremony.

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**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS**

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www.griffissinstitute.org/AirForceSTEM