Teams from the Governor’s School for Science and Technology competed for honors at the Virginia Maker Conference hosted by the Virginia Tech Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) on ICAT Day, May 1. The conference Process Award was awarded to the GSST team project “Eye-Robot: Navigational Aid for the Visually Impaired”. The winning team included Michael Hendrickson (Team Leader, Phoebus HS), Ryan Flint (Jamestown HS, Elizabeth Horley (Jamestown HS), Caroline Kersey (Gloucester HS), Brittany Kinslow (Kecoughtan HS), and Jesse Nelson (Jamestown HS).

Also competing from GSST was the team project “Visi Boom – A System for Providing Auditory Awareness in an Isolated Environment”, led by Team Leader Tanner Loper (Denbigh HS). Team members included Nir Diskin (Grafton HS), Siddhant Mehtota (Tabb HS), Alexander Kleb (Tabb HS), and Tavaris Noel (Grafton HS). The students attending the conference had good things to say about their ICAT Day experiences. “Take-away” comments included: “I learned how to question a client/customer/user when creating solution ideas and designing a prototype”; “It was very cool to see what others are doing. It was a great environment of makers who are passionate about STEM”; “I learned the importance of incorporating art and creativity into design; it’s not just about technology”; and “I learned the importance of real-world demonstration skills and leadership skills.”

TIDEWATER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR

1st Place Category Awards
Cellular & Molecular Biology, Riya Palikonda – Warwick HS
Engineering (Elect. & Mech.), Joshua Glab & Michael Hendrickson – Phoebus HS
Energy & Transportation, Siddhant Mehtota – Tabb HS
Physics and Astronomy, Miroslava Marinova – Grafton HS
Plant Sciences, Emily Quick-Cole – Kecoughtan HS

2nd Place Category Awards
Chemistry, Jarmin Dicks – Woodside HS
Energy & Transportation, Jeffery Cho – Gloucester HS
Environmental Science, Eumice Namkoong – Tabb HS
Mathematical Sciences, Bruce Edwards – Warwick HS
Microbiology, Shannon Hepp – Kecoughtan HS

3rd Place Category Awards
Material & Biological, Brittany Kinslow – Kecoughtan HS
Medicine & Health, Ashley Guishard – Smithfield HS

Honorable Mention
Computer Science, Chenyu Zhang-Grafton HS & Julie Zhou – York HS
Elect./Mech, Shane Scott – Poquoson HS
Mat’LS/Bio, Kate Perkins-Warwick HS
Mat’LS/Bio, James Farches – York HS
Medicine & Health, Ashley Guishard-Smithfield HS

GIFTED STUDENTS SHINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CONTEST SCENE

US Physics Olympiad Competition Fnet Test

The Physics Olympiad is a nine-day international competition among pre-university students from more than 60 nations. At the International Physics Olympiad, the competitors are asked to solve challenging theoretical and experimental physics problems. The US Physics Olympiad teams selects its five team members by asking member teachers to nominate their best and brightest students to take the Fnet Test to qualify for the team. Each year tens of thousands of students participate in the Fnet Test. Annually, the approximately 300 students who score the highest on the Fnet test are invited to continue in the Semi-Final test for the US Physics Olympiad team. Twenty students were selected from the semi-finalist to attend a two week training camp in Maryland culminating in the selection of five students to represent the US in the International Physics Olympiad which was held in Indonesia. Jenny Gu of Tabb High School in the Engineering Physics Strand scored in the top 300 nationally and competed in the US Physics Olympiad Semi-Final test in April.

Interservice/Industry Technology, Simulation and Education Conference 2016

Winnie Zhang and Julie Zhou from York County Public Schools represented the Governor’s School for Science & Technology at the Intersect Industry Technology, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida. JITESEC is one of the largest simulation conferences with more than 15,000 in attendance. GSST is one of only six high schools to be represented in the Future Leaders Pavilion as part of the STEM initiative. Winnie and Julie worked throughout the summer and fall to prepare their simulation entitled “A Simulation on the Effect of a Major World War on the Population of the World”. They discussed their work and demonstrated their simulation with many visitors and other students over the duration of the conference. They gave a formal presentation of their work to the student competition. Additionally, they were able to explore and interact with the enormous range of technology on display. Winnie and Julie plan to major in computer science in college and this conference gave them an exceptional professional experience and a look into the directions that technology and simulation are heading.

$8,237,116 in scholarships awarded from numerous top tier colleges and universities!
GSST students presented talks at the Virginia Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at James Madison University. These students worked very hard to prepare professional quality presentations. They were asked many questions by university professionals. GSST students showed that they are poised and knowledgeable about their studies. Please congratulate the following: Alex Culver, Smithfield HS; Gold Medal & Outstanding Presentation Awards Kylee Hockaday, York HS, Outstanding Presentation Award Abigail Menge Bulson HS, Outstanding Presentation Award Riya Palkinda - Menchville HS, Outstanding Presentation Award Annie Cao, Grafton HS, Hannah Yoon, Grafton HS, Emily Vogt, Grafton HS, Mira Marinova Grafton HS, Tryston Raecke Tabb HS, Elizabeth Horley, Jamestown HS, Emily Vogt, Grafton HS, Mira Marinova Grafton HS, Tryston Raecke Tabb HS, Elizabeth Horley, Jamestown HS, Laurel Hunter, Hampton HS; Shannon Hepp, Kecoughtan HS, Cale Overstreet, York HS.

2017 NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing is an annual award for students in the United States who show high potential for success in computing-related careers. The award is given to high school students who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, and a strong commitment to pursuing a computing-related career. The award recognizes students who are not only academically gifted but also demonstrate a strong passion for technology and innovation. The award is presented to students who have demonstrated their potential in the field of computing through their academic achievements, leadership roles, and extracurricular activities. The goal of the award is to encourage young women to pursue careers in computing and to inspire them to make a positive impact in the field.

Local Innovation Expert meets with GSST Engineering Students.

Marty Kaszabowski, Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Old Dominion University, met with GSST engineering students. He focused on ways in which entrepreneurship is brought to markets and to people. He explained the role, organization, and evolution of the startup company, and gave students an overview of the major kinds of business organizations and how technology is developed and managed. Said Marty, "my hope is that the students will see entrepreneurship as a viable career path that requires the same sort of creativity and problem solving skills that scientists and engineers use on a daily basis. I hope they'll remember that the principles of entrepreneurship will help them see every problem as an opportunity to create value and improve the world. When asked what he found at GSST, Marty replied, "They were bright, engaged, and ready to explore the ideas I offered up. I look forward to doing this again, and I expect to hear great things from the students as they move forward in their careers."

Teacher Highlights

Professor Steven Walk has joined leaders from the ODU Center for Entrepreneurship in Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative in creating a recurring series of events designed to stimulate technical product idea generation through commercialization in Hampton Roads. Entitled “Concept to Commercialization”, the initiative is designed to help grow the Hampton Roads economy by assisting local entrepreneurs to strategically create products marketable across the US and around the world.

GSST students have and will participate in this effort through a specially designed senior mentorship. Students are tasked to develop quantitative technological forecasts of diverse technologies, focusing on the founding and enabling technologies in the strategic business clusters of Hampton Roads. In so doing, the students develop expertise in all kinds of advanced technologies and their growth, performance, and diffusion trends.

Director Highlight

Governor’s School Director, Vikki Wismer, participated in the second annual summit to identify solutions to close the excellence gap between lower income students and higher income students at advanced levels. Mrs. Wismer was personally invited by the Cooke Foundation to collaborate with more than 100 other principals, as well as, other school leaders and experts nationwide to learn about cutting-edge research and share best practices for supporting high-achieving, low-income students.