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STEM EDUCATION

Technology students take over State Fairgrounds for yearly conference

By Sarah Barban
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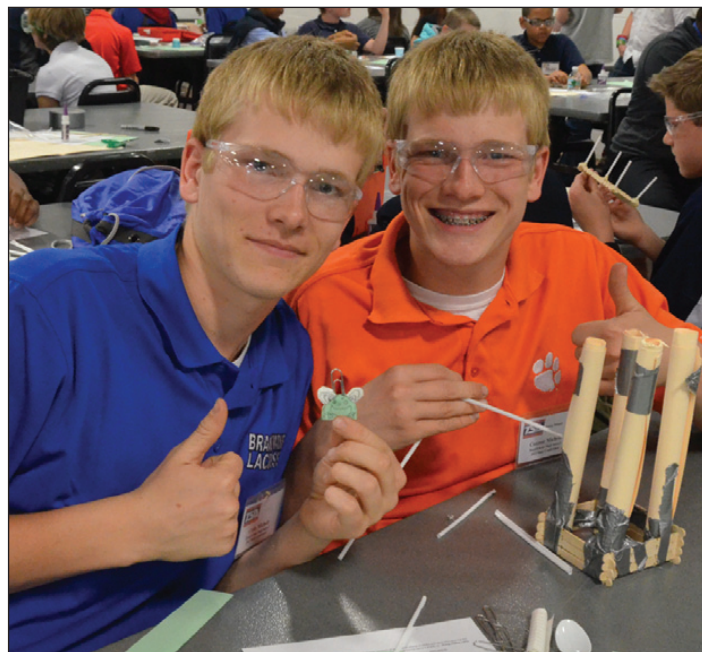
Students from Technology Students Associations across the state gathered at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington April 25-26 for the association's annual conference. The two-day event gave 619 students from 34 schools an opportunity to compete in categories such as model rocketry; dragster design; and transportation modeling, in which students were tasked with designing bridges.

Mike Fitzgerald, TSA state advisor, was in charge of planning the event and overseeing the activities at the conference.

"TSA is a career and technology student organization," he said. "The intent is for it to support classroom instruction in science, engineering, technology and math and to get kids careers in those fields."

TSA has even its youngest students thinking about their future career.

"I really like architecture and engineering," said Will Jordan, an eighth-grade student from Springer Middle School in Wilmington who participated in electrical applications, bridge building and system control, in which students built robots out of legos.



Colin and Connor Michels, of Brandywine High School in Wilmington, take a break from working on their technology problem-solving challenge to smile for the camera.

SARAH BARBAN PHOTO

For Alexis Evans, TSA was a good way to make friends.

"When I came to Mount Pleasant High school I didn't have many friends, but then I joined TSA and I made lots of friends and that's how I met my boyfriend," Evans said.

TSA offers students the opportunity to get

involved in school but it also gives them the opportunity to showcase their skills at competitions like last week's state conference, which is just the first step for some. Students who placed in the top three in any of the 53 categories qualify to move on to the national TSA conference in Orlando, Fla.

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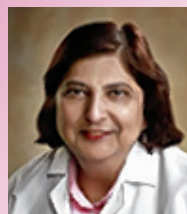
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