

Roanoke County STEM Academy Update – 12/16/14

Motorsports Engine Building Team Students are National Champions!

Congratulations to the Burton Motorsports team who competed in, and won, the Hot Rodders of Tomorrow Engine Challenge in Indianapolis, Indiana this past week. The Engine Challenge offers teams of students the opportunity to compete, using strictly outlined criteria, in disassembling and then rebuilding a small-block Chevy engine in the shortest amount of time with minimal penalties. The national competition was conducted in a new 'dual' format this year as teams could choose to compete in 'semi-final' events in either Las Vegas, Nevada or Indianapolis, Indiana. The national finals were conducted directly following the semi-final competition in Indianapolis with the top two teams from Las Vegas and the top two teams from Indianapolis making up the top four. The national winner would be announced after the four teams competed against each other and the clock, three different times, in front of crowds of onlookers.



Advised by Motorsports instructor Chris Overfelt, the Burton team consisted of Jacob Hurley, Austin Martin, Tomas Henderlite, Zach Duncan, Jacob Pierce and Jimmy Davis. The team began their intensely collaborative effort this past January and worked to improve their times as they progressed through different regional qualifying events. After being one of the 31 teams from around the country to qualify for the national competition, the team chose to attend the Performance Racing Industry (PRI) Show in Indianapolis. The team won the PRI show which automatically put them in the national final-four competition. Not only did the team win the national competition, they also posted a new individual-run national record of 16 minutes and 22 seconds!

Engine Challenge “Final-Four” Official Final Standings

Place	School	State	Team	1st Run	2nd Run	3rd Run	Time Average
1st	Burton Center for Arts and Technology	Virginia	Nitrous Express	19:35:00	18:23:00	16:22:00	18:06:40
2nd	Forsyth Central High School	Georgia	Derale	18:35:00	18:58:00	18:17:00	18:36:40
3rd	Eastern Oklahoma County Tech Center	Oklahoma	Autometer	19:26:00	20:34:00	17:44:00	19:14:40
4th	Thomas County Central High School	Georgia	Moroso	21:13:00	20:13:00	19:05:00	20:10:20

The students benefitted tremendously from this learning experience - networking with industry professionals, communicating and collaborating at a high intensity level and earning tens-of-thousands of dollars in college scholarships that they can put toward furthering their education in the motorsports field. Each of the six students on the national championship team earned \$10,000 of scholarship to three different trade schools (\$30,000 individual, \$180,000 cumulative for the team)!



The competition floor



Judges scrutinized every move



A very proud group holding one of three \$10,000 scholarships

(From left to right: Jacob Hurley, Jimmy Davis, Jacob Pierce, Tomas Henderlite, Zach Duncan, Austin Martin, Mr. Chris Overfelt, Ohio Technical College Representative Lee Billington)