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Project Fibonacci concludes with awards, ceremony



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SCHOLARS FOR PROJECT FIBONACCI — Students, staff and volunteers for the fourth annual Project Fibonacci STEAM Leadership Conference gather outside The Beeches, where the week-long conference was based. About 90 students of ages 15-20 from around the state attended the conference which included workshops and functions relating to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math).

(PHOTO SUBMITTED)

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The Project Fibonacci STEAM Leadership Conference for students concluded Saturday with a ceremony and awards presentation involving students' projects relating to the conference theme of "The Colonization of Mars," a conference representative said.

Students applied knowledge gained during the week-long conference while at workshops, lectures and field trips centered in STEAM categories of science, technology, engineering, arts and math, said Project Fibonacci representative Michelle Minicozzi.

About 90 students of ages 15-20 from around the state attended the fourth annual conference, which was based at The Beeches.

Parents, family and friends gathered at The Beeches on Saturday to view projects that the attending scholar students worked on at the conference. Displays, models and videos created by five student teams were on exhibit as students answered questions about their projects as based on the Mars colonization theme, Minicozzi said.

The student "Red" team was announced as the winner of the project contest. Team members received certificates of program completion and \$75 Amazon gift cards as prizes, said Minicozzi. Among the members: Lucas Amanna; Joseph Behr; Raymond Donnelly; Zachary Gioppo; Caleb Lisowski; Jonathan Rush; Trevor Tamburino; Mack Yahoudy-Macner; Andre Ciotti; Holly Allen; Julia Bates; Mary Buckingham; Alex Burger; Jackie Mann; Aleena Rosario; Kyra Warncke; Habibah Yasin.

Overall it was "a great week," said Minicozzi of the conference. The conference's keynote speakers, in appearances that also were open to the public, included aerospace engineer and author Robert Zubrin, known for advocating human exploration of Mars; Aprille Ericsson, considered a trailblazing aerospace engineer and instrument manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center; and former pro football player John Urschel, a candidate for a PhD in mathematics.

Planning has begun for the 2020 Project Fibonacci STEAM Leadership Conference, said Minicozzi, adding that it again is expected to occur during the period from the end of July to early August.

For more information on attending, volunteering, sponsorship or donations for the conference, visit projectfibonacci.org online. The Project Fibonacci educational initiative was founded by Andrew Drozd, president and chief scientist of ANDRO Computational Solutions, LLC of Rome.

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