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FEATURED

Students to progress in STEM competition

Robert Inglis Feb 22, 2017



Lewisburg High School student Todd Stefan, left, explains to judge Brian Paulhamus about the battery and wiring used in their STEM project at the Governor's PA STEM competition on Tuesday at the CSIU.

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Teams of students from Sunbury Christian Academy, Lewisburg Area High School and the STEM Magnet Program at Bloomsburg University, competed against one another Tuesday morning during the Governor's PA STEM Competition at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit in Montandon.

Each team, consisting of students in grades nine through 12, were tasked with solving a problem in their local community and were judged by their report and presentation.

The team from Lewisburg, comprised of students Todd Stefan, Rusty Schwartz, Ryan Ehman, Wilson Fisher and Nick Alico, decided to tackle the problem of lighting the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail at night, especially the Gordon Hufnagle covered bridge.

"When we were in our old high school downtown," Fisher said, "we decided to walk around and see if there was anything we could improve and help the community out."

"I have a good friend that lives downtown and we would go out at night to go to the store and it was always a hassle crossing in that area and we decided a lighting system in that area would be good," Schwartz said.

Students from the STEM Magnet Program pitched an idea about turning fly ash from coal-fired power plants into bricks that could be used for construction.

The winning team from Sunbury Christian Academy, composed of students Nathan Derk, Alex Gessner, Seth Kabonick, Justin Keller and Cotton Long, will advance to the state competition on May 19 at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster. Their winning project consisted of using a drone to spray insecticide from a distance.

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