

7 area teens win scholarships at HPG Chamber-sponsored Manufacturing Tech Summer Camp

Members of the winning team (l-r) Nicholas Daniel of Dinwiddie, Kyah Yeager of Hopewell, Brianna Brown of Prince George, Zary Vazquez of Prince George, Samuel Childress of Dinwiddie, Kevin Gallager of Atlee and Camille Tucker of Dinwiddie.

Hopewell/Prince George, VA – A multi-jurisdiction team of students won the Manufacturing Tech Summer Camp competition on Saturday, August 1. The Hopewell/Prince George Chamber is a network sponsor for the camp.

Members of the winning team were Nicholas Daniel of Dinwiddie, Kyah Yeager of Hopewell, Brianna Brown of Prince George, Zary Vazquez of Prince George, Samuel Childress of Dinwiddie, Kevin Gallager of Atlee and Camille Tucker of Dinwiddie. They each received a \$500 scholarship.

Twenty-five students from five school systems participated in the four-day competition. The school systems included Hopewell, Prince George, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield and Hanover. The students competed in four teams during a two-hour session Saturday to produce clocks, using computer-assisted production methods.

The 3rd Annual Dream It Do It Manufacturing Technology Camp took place July 29 – August 1 at [Industrial TurnAround Corporation](#) (ITAC) in Chester. The camp is sponsored by area manufacturers, the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber, and school systems in the City of Hopewell and the counties of Prince George and Dinwiddie.

Four days of hands-on learning

The students received three days of preparation, which included tours of the Ordnance Welding School at Ft. Lee and advanced factory operations at Rolls Royce Crosspointe, which manufactures discs for civil aerospace engines.

The students also received lectures and hands-on training in estimating their budgets, placing orders for raw materials, planning production, managing safety, building a team and sharing resources.

The Manufacturing Technology Camp model was developed by STIHL Inc., a global manufacturer of chain saws and other outdoor power equipment, with its US operations located in Virginia Beach, and presented to the [Dream it. Do it. Virginia](#) network as an opportunity to host students throughout the state for this valuable hands-on learning experience. This is the third year the camp has been held in the Hopewell-Prince George area.

“What’s not immediately apparent to those who do not work in the manufacturing and skilled trades sector is that manufacturing has evolved into a more technology intensive sector and offers new opportunities and challenges. Another factor that is not evident is the competitive pay and benefits for these jobs,” says Pam Allen of Accel Talent and Development Group, who spent many years in HR in this sector before starting her own firm. “Manufacturing has again been identified by the [National Association of Colleges and Employers](#) for being a top paying industry for class of 2015 graduates. Southside Virginia, Tri-Cities offers opportunities for those interested in this career pathway.”

About Dream It. Do It. Virginia

The Dream It. Do It. Virginia (DIDIVA) outreach and awareness network is a partner of the National Dream It. Do It. network as developed by the Manufacturing Institute (MI) and expanded to Virginia in

2007 by the Virginia Industry Foundation (VIF) and VMA. The DIDIVA network's mission is to encourage people to explore and pursue advanced technology careers in Virginia, like manufacturing, biotechnology, robotics, nanotechnology, aviation, energy, information technology, healthcare and more. DIDIVA offers a free, online career resource tool built by Virginia's advanced technology sector to help individuals learn more about exciting career opportunities and connect them with possible future employment, as well as a two-time award winning "So What Do You Do?" integrated marketing campaign featured in all its media. For more information, visit www.dreamitdoitvirginia.com.

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