More than 70 High School Students Compete in Computer Science Teachers Association Coding Competition at Stockton University

Mainland Regional Takes 1st Place with Ocean City Taking 2nd and 3rd

For Immediate Release; Photos on Flickr

Friday, March 18, 2016

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Bob Heinrich, chief information officer in the Office of Computer and Telecommunication Services, welcomed the students and told them, "You are growing up in a world that is much different" from his own childhood's era.

He recalled the early home computer he used as a child and explained that it had no internal storage and he had to write code to make it function. Then he pointed to the smartphone in his pocket as an example of the powerful computer devices of today. "Code powers our digital world," he said.

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He volunteered during the competition as a member of the CSTA. Today was a great opportunity to provide awareness of the growing careers in the field and the opportunities in their future, he explained.

Before the awards were presented, Demetrios Roubos, assistant director of Information Systems and Security administrator at Stockton, shared his personal experiences as a former Stockton student, employee, and as an enthusiast of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as gaming.

He spoke of the physics behind popular games and the how science and entertainment are intertwined. "Take a look at your smartphone. Someone is getting paid to design it. That could be you," he said, as he explained the diverse careers in the field.

Below are the winning teams.

1st Place: Mainland Regional High School

Jack Baxter Lawrence Strenger Matt Ognibene

2nd Place: Ocean City High School

Annabelle Gartner Nick Eisele

3rd Place: Ocean City High School

Collin Kelly Austin Fox