

The state’s only K-5 Science & Engineering Fair was largest ever at GCSU

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) recently hosted its annual state science competition for kindergarten through fifth grade at Centennial Center.

It was the largest group of elementary students since the fair started in 2018.

This year, 49 school districts across Georgia sent 439 K-5 students presenting 317 projects to compete in the state fair. All projects in the competition won first place in local school districts.

“This competition started 6 years ago as Georgia College was the only regional competition in the state still holding K-5 fairs. Other regions wanted to send their students to us,” said Dr. Catrena Lisse, director of the university’s Science Education Center.

“We expanded beyond our region and became the official K-5 state science and engineering fair,” she said. “It’s exciting to see so many young people engaging in the scientific process and solving the mysteries of their own curiosity.”

Several new school systems from North and Southeastern Georgia were at the fair this year. Counties participating from Central Georgia included Baldwin, Bibb, Jones, Monroe, Washington and Wilkinson.

The K-5 State Science Fair followed the 46th Annual Regional Science & Engineering Fair for 6-12th graders held at Georgia College in February. Several projects at that fair experimented with spiders, sugar and humidity.

Topics for last week’s K-5 level included:

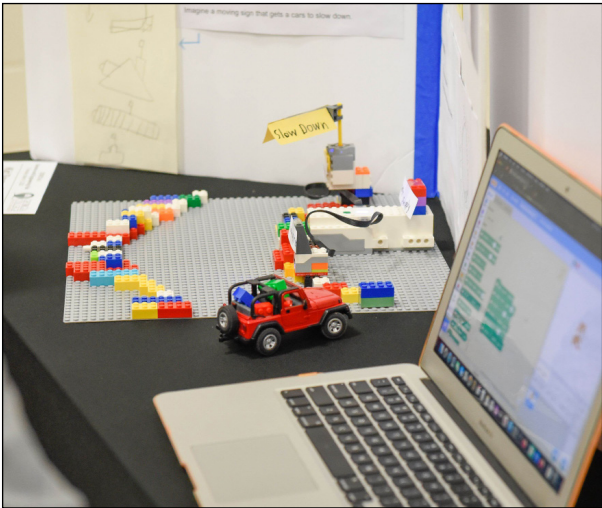
- studying the aerodynamics of paper airplanes
- investigating the strength of triangle trusses to build stronger bridges
- exploring the chemistry of making big bubbles
- using electric motors to improve transportation in metro areas
- considering the optimum angle for kicking a football.

About 180 Georgia College students volunteered at the science fair, along with more than 120 professional judges who specialize in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Activities for participants included a STEM marketplace and movie, engineering design challenges, science games and tours of the university’s Natural History Museum and new Integrated Science Complex.

Local winners included three kindergartners who won “Best of Show” and “Best of Class.” They were Jasen Braswell, La’Trae Anderson and Cameron Burney from Midway Hills Primary School in Milledgeville with a project on preserving bananas.

“Best of Class” first grade winners were Landon Lewis and Skylar Wiggins from Lakeview Primary school in Milledgeville. “Best of Computational Sciences” went to Trenton Hunt and Mayan Whipple from Midway Hills Primary in Milledgeville. A homeschooler from outside Augusta, fourth grader Miles Mazer, won the grand prize with an experient on the explosion of rockets.

“As a scientist, I have an obligation to share my love of science with our youth, especially our smallest ones, in order to keep their interest alive as they grow,” Lisse said. “By the time they reach middle and high school, either the seed of love for science has been planted and nurtured or it hasn’t.”



High Schoolers enjoy and compete in GCSU’s first Women in Technology Day

Five Georgia College Early College students bested the field Friday, Feb. 24, in Georgia College & State University’s first Women in Technology Day.

The visiting young women—from five schools—competed for the highest value maple syrup company in an enterprise resource planning simulation (ERPsim). They managed the fictitious, virtual company with GC WIT mentors over 60 days using real ERP systems.

Early College students, Kayla Harris, Erica Cabiness, Taiyler King, Tamia Miller and Ariel Reeves, came out on top—with a company valuation of \$977,880. Washington County and Baldwin High School students placed second and third, respectively. Georgia Military College and Jones County High School students also participated.

“We’re very proud of our Georgia College Early College students,” said Dr. Joy Godin, associate professor of Information Systems and Women in Technology Day coordinator. “It was inspiring to see so many women excited about technology. Hopefully, the event and future ones will help



Baldwin County high schoolers celebrate their achievements. young women envision themselves in technical careers.”

According to the National Girls Collaborative Project, women make up half of the United States’ population but hold only 21% of computer science bachelor’s degrees and 34% of computer science jobs.

Women in Technology Day was organized by Godin to help young women envision a career in a technologically-oriented field. Led by Georgia College’s Women in Technology Club and faculty advisor Caroline Collier, Women in Technology Day is designed to excite female high school students about technology and introduce educational pathways that could lead to careers in the tech sector.

Participants enjoyed a line-up of conference events geared toward women in technology. They explored virtual reality technology and learned about the GCSU Women in Technology experience firsthand from college peers.

Attendees also created a robotic process automation for mimicking human interaction on a web browser.

After winning the competition, they shared their thoughts about how the day allowed them a glimpse of what to expect within the field, and how communication and teamwork are at the heart of any career.

Did you know?

Georgia College & State University (GCSU) students got a hands-on civics lesson in Georgia state government this week.

A delegation of Georgia College students and administrators traveled to Atlanta to meet with legislators and state officials and talk about the virtues of the state’s designated Public Liberal Arts University during Georgia College & State University Day at the Capitol.

Georgia College & State University Day at the Capitol is an opportunity to talk about the ways the university prepares our workforce’s next generation to meet the state’s ambitious economic development goals. Georgia College Day also offered students unique insight into the hustle and bustle of the 40-day legislative session in Atlanta.

Georgia Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones welcomed GCSU President Cathy Cox, Milledgeville State Senator Rick Williams and Thunder, the GCSU mascot, to the floor of the Senate prior to starting the day’s legislative agenda. Jones, who formerly represented Milledgeville, said he makes many recommendations for students to attend the “jewel of the university system,” so they can benefit from Georgia College’s beautiful campus, small class sizes and student-friendly atmosphere.

What’s going on in Bobcat Territory?

Visit frontpage.gcsu.edu/events

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------|-----------|----------|--|---|
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 6-10 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Augusta at John Kurtz Field. | 18 2-6 p.m. GCSU Baseball vs. Augusta at John Kurtz Field. |