Local students participate in computer science competition

Computer science students from Chautauqua Lake, Dunkirk, Fredonia, Gowanda, BOCES — Hewes Center, and BOCES — Carrier Center recently competed in the 12th annual computer science competition sponsored by the Computer Science Department at SUNY Fredonia. Students participated in contests in computer programming, electronic spreadsheets, web programming, and a quiz bowl contest.

The Programming Competition challenges students to write computer programs to solve a series of problems. Students can use the programming languages of C++, Java, Python or Visual Basic.

Kara Tenpas from Chautauqua Lake High School won the programming competition. Teams from Gowanda High School captured second and third place.

The web programming competition involves designing a professional web page and coding that page using the Hypertext Markup Language. Student work is judged based on appearance and functionality.

Kara Tenpas, J.C. McCroskey and Jared Clark from Chautauqua Lake High School placed first and first place in the Programming Competition. Teams from Chautauqua Lake and Fredonia took second and third place.

The spreadsheet contest challenged students to use Microsoft Excel functions, values, formulas and labels to solve a series of real-world business problems. The spreadsheets are judged for mathematical accuracy, functionality and appearance.

Kristina Greene, Carissa Dunn, and Alexis Rodriguez took first-place honors. Teams from Dunkirk High School and the Hewes Center BOCES were in second and third place.

The quiz bowl contest consists of teams of three students answering a series of general knowledge questions on topics related to computers and computer science. The questions involve both mathematical calculations and reasoning. The first-place team, from the Carrier Career Center, consisted of Jacob Myers, Hannah Cotter and Brytani Hutchinson. Teams from the Hewes Educational Center and Fredonia High School took second and third place.

SUNY Fredonia has been hosting the computer science competition since 2003. This year, 57 students were involved in the contest.

The contest chairman was Mike Szocki, system administrator at SUNY Fredonia. He was assisted by professors Michael Scialdone, Gurmukh Singh and Ziya Arnavut, lecturer Derrik Dekker and instructor Adrienne Pelz.

The computer science industry is projected to grow much faster than other industries over the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. While some niches within the field are expected to grow more quickly than others, computer science is an excellent choice for a career with a solid future and high earnings.

For information about the Fredonia State College Department of Computer Science visit the website www.cs.fredonia.edu.

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LIFESTYLES

Top: Local high school students from Chautauqua Lake, Dunkirk, Fredonia, Gowanda, BOCES — Hewes Center, and BOCES — Carrier Center recently competed in the 12th annual computer science competition at SUNY Fredonia.

Middle left: Kara Tenpas from Chautauqua Lake High School holds her award for winning the programming competition.

Middle right: The Dunkirk High School team of Kristina Greene, Carissa Dunn, and Alexis Rodriguez took first-place honors in the spreadsheet competition.

Above left: Ben Reynolds, J.C. McCroskey, and Jared Clark from Chautauqua Lake High School placed first in the web programming competition.

Above right: Winners in the quiz bowl competition were Jacob Myers, Hannah Cotter and Brytani Hutchinson from Carrier Career Center.

Right: Quiz questions are projected on a big screen.

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