



For immediate release:
May 15, 2019

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Skills for the Future: Area Middle School Students Amaze with Inventions & the Skills they Learned Along the Way

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, approximately 1,400 people got a glimpse of the future — and the kids who will invent it. With over 850 local middle school students from 41 schools participating, the 2019 **Invent the Future Challenge Summit** showcased amazing original prototypes designed to solve real-world environmental problems.

Family members, friends, and distinguished guests — including Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council members, local business leaders, and education leaders — had an opportunity to view the projects, which ranged from saltwater purification mechanisms, to forest fire detection systems, to smart gardening watering devices. Throughout the day, volunteer judges from NOAA, NIST, Pepco, University of Maryland, UMBC, and Johns Hopkins University, among others, interviewed students about their inventions. Sixteen teams walked away with awards (and tickets to Six Flags America) in the categories of Idea, Process, Presentation, and Judges' Choice.

Kamal Narang, coach of a seventh-grade team at Frost Middle School, said his son learned about tenacity and teamwork. Janice Rolle, the mother of a Sligo Middle School seventh-grader, said her daughter enjoyed thinking about “real problems, real solutions through the world of science, and learning how important that is for society as a whole.”

Keynote speaker, Dr. Shanika Hope, Head of Content and Research at Amazon Web Services Educate, applauded the Invent the Future Challenge for teaching young people the value of “embracing failure on the path to innovation” and said she was hugely impressed by the

creativity on display: “If you are the next generation of inventors, I’m feeling hopeful about the future.”

2019 AWARD WINNERS:

Idea

Argyle Middle School: The Trashulizer 3000

Herbert Hoover Middle School: Safe B Plastics

Multi-School Team: Detection and mitigation of aflatoxin in crops

Sidwell Friends School: The Throw and Grow Cup

Process

Argyle Middle School: Nurd Nechs, Inc.

Herbert Hoover Middle School: Tri-Disposable Cup

Robert Frost Middle School: Saltwater Purification

Silver Spring International Middle School: Design Nation

Presentation

Earl B. Wood Middle School: Inventors 101

Neelsville Middle School: Wind Powered Oven

Roberto Clemente Middle School: Ultrasonic Algae Shark

White Oak Middle School: Garden of the Future

Judges’ Choice

Benjamin Banneker Middle School: Alternative Transportation

Newport Mill Middle School: Ground-Effect Vehicle

Sligo Middle School: Dam/Water Filter

Team Tech Ninjas: Smart Gardener Watering System

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About KID Museum

KID Museum is an independent, mission-driven nonprofit serving 55,000 people annually in its creative learning space, on-site at schools, and at community events. A national leader in maker-based education, the museum seeks to spark the creative potential of all children, and inspire the next generation of innovators. Core to its mission is ensuring that all youth, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields, have access to transformative learning opportunities that will pave the way for their future success — and the shared success of our community. For more information, please visit www.kid-museum.org.