

STEM Challenge 2016 – Follow Up

The Bridges to STEM Careers (BSC) program, with funding from the National Science Foundation, hosted its annual STEM Challenge on April 9th, 2016 in the Student Services Building at UHCL. 21 teams made up of 70 students participated in the competition at two levels: beginner and advanced. Winners and participants won prizes including scholarships, internships, quadcopters and various other gifts.

STEM Challenge 2016 was sponsored by Flow-Cal Inc., Esyntaxis and AtLink Communications Inc. Breakfast was generously donated by Panera Bread. Lunch was provided at a concession rate by Freebirds Inc. Additional support was provided by various other companies and restaurants in the community. Faculty members from community colleges, high schools and UHCL participated actively and served as judges, mentors and in various other capacities. Industry representatives from Flow-Cal, AtLink and SAIC also served as judges.



The challenge was open to all high school and undergraduate students. Students from many high schools and community colleges and universities were represented at the event. It consisted of two levels of competition, with all teams showcasing their capabilities in several areas ranging from creative abilities, engineering design abilities, math abilities to software design abilities. A total of 21 teams (13 beginner teams and 8 advanced teams) registered for the event. Each team consisted of a maximum of 4 members.



All challenges were taken from and inspired by STEM subjects, and were designed in a way that allowed anyone to participate and succeed. The goals of the STEM Challenge were manifold: to encourage students to try STEM fields, to recognize that STEM fields can be fun, and to take away the fear of failure in a



STEM field.





In the Beginner category, the **Dayton Broncos** comprised of students Romeo Medrano, Jackson Parker, Andrew Hicks and Eduardo Diaz from Dayton High School placed first, and each contestant went home with a \$500 scholarship to UHCL along with a quadcopter kit. In the Advanced category,



Team **The Stupendously Talented Engineers and Mathematicians**, comprised of students Alex Bradvedt, Laura Joya, Gregory Hemenway and Austin Hill of UHCL placed first, and each member received a \$500 scholarship to UHCL, along with a summer internship at AtLink.



Team JAVA comprising of Juan Oviedo, Aidee Garza, Victor Barron and Acenet Garza from San Jacinto Community College (North) was awarded the Station Master status in the Creative Challenge. Sarah Koller, Jeremy Le, Erik Hitt and Michael Ball of **Team UHCL** won the Station Master status for the



Engineering Design Challenge. Each of the winners received \$300 scholarship to UHCL and a \$30 Amazon gift card.



In the Software Design challenge, beginner teams and advanced teams worked on separate challenges. In the beginner category, Patrick Edelen, Rahul Yesantharao and William Jeang of **Team CLHS** won the Station Master status. **Team Stigs** of UHCL comprising of Paul Taplett, Hunny Patel and Clay Matthews won the Advanced



Station Master Status.

Thanks to several departments at UHCL and area restaurants and vendors, each participant won a door prize, such as 250GB solid state external hard drives, flash drives and gift cards and UHCL memorabilia. Participants also each received a t-shirt, water bottle and breakfast and lunch.



The STEM challenge was organized by Bridges to STEM Careers program – A partnership with the University of Houston Clear-Lake and San Jacinto College and supported by the National Science Foundation.