Hempfield Area High School Wins at Chain Reaction Contest

Teams from 30 High Schools Honed Engineering Skills, Creativity

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 16, 2015 – Hempfield Area High School took top honors in Carnegie Science Center’s Chain Reaction Contraption Contest on Friday, Dec. 11, with its “Humpty Dumpty”-themed contraption. Thirty-five teams from 30 area high schools participated in the engineering competition, which this year challenged teams to “Tell a Story.”

The Chain Reaction Contraption Contest, sponsored by Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, challenged students to create a complex machine to complete an everyday task in 20 steps or more. Contraptions were judged on functionality, complexity, and creativity in achieving the task.


“During the contest, students learn what it’s like to be an engineer. Plus, they work in teams to overcome design obstacles with creativity and inventiveness,” Linda Ortenzo, the Science Center’s director of STEM programs, said.

“It’s imaginative events like the Chain Reaction Contraption contest that inspire the next generation of innovative thinkers who we need to solve the world’s ever-changing technology challenges,” said Jim Brennan, senior vice president, Westinghouse Engineering Center of Excellence. “I was really impressed with the hard work and creativity that these students showed with their projects.”

Special awards were also presented to the following schools:

- **Longest Successfully Executed Contraption** presented to Kiski Area High School. Award sponsored by Westinghouse.
- **Rookie of the Year** presented to Shaler High School. Award sponsored by Carnegie Science Center. This school will receive a field trip for up to 25 students to attend National Engineers Week at Carnegie Science Center on February 19.
• **Best Use of Gravity** presented to West Mifflin High School. Award sponsored by Carnegie Science Center. This school will receive a field trip for up to 25 students to attend Carnegie Science Center.

• **Most Mechanical** presented to Greater Latrobe High School. Award sponsored by Carpenter Powder Products, Inc.

• **Best Presentation** presented to Baldwin High School. Award sponsored by Robotics Institute School of Computer Science -- Carnegie Mellon University.

• **Best Transportation System** presented to Somerset High School. Award sponsored by Bombardier Transportation.

• **Most Efficient Reset** presented to Montour High School. Award sponsored by Bayer HealthCare.

• **Best Execution of a Theme** presented to Brentwood High School. Award sponsored by Kennywood Amusement Park.

• “**What Will You Create?**” award presented to North Allegheny Senior High School. Award sponsored by Inventionland.

Chain Reaction Contraption Contest, a program of the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development, is part of the Science Center’s celebration of National Engineers Week.

The contest is sponsored by Westinghouse Electric Company LLC and presented in cooperation with the Carnegie Science Center and the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Chain Reaction Contraption Contest, visit [www.chainreactioncontest.org](http://www.chainreactioncontest.org).

Visit [CarnegieScienceCenter.org](http://CarnegieScienceCenter.org) to learn more about Chevron STEM Center programming.

**About Carnegie Science Center**
Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center’s goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh’s premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

**About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**
Founded by Andrew Carnegie 120 years ago, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. The museums reach more than 1.3 million people a year through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

**About Westinghouse Electric Company**
Westinghouse Electric Company, a group company of Toshiba Corporation (TKY:6502), is the world’s pioneering nuclear energy company and is a leading supplier of nuclear plant products and technologies to utilities throughout the world. Westinghouse supplied the world’s first commercial
pressurized water reactor in 1957 in Shippingport, Pennsylvania, USA. Today, Westinghouse technology is the basis for approximately one-half of the world's operating nuclear plants.

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