



Daviess County Public Schools

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PHOTO CAPTION – (L-R) Owen Krahwinkel, Price Cowan, Paul McClellan and Adam Julian are pictured with their VapeBusters prototype at the regional STLP competition hosted by Western Kentucky University in December 2018.

November 21, 2019

DCHS VapeBusters team named state ‘Solve For Tomorrow’ finalists

A team of Daviess County High School students have been recognized as one of six state finalists in the Samsung “Solve for Tomorrow” competition. Their entry was selected from more than 2,000 applications for 2019-2020 honors. The team will be notified on Dec. 23 regarding their status in advancing in competition for regional and national honors.

DCHS students Owen Krahwinkel, Price Cowan, Paul McClellan and Adam Julian have developed a business plan for a device called “VapeBusters.” This product is designed to respond to the issue of underage usage of e-cigarettes and vaping among high school students. The product involves using humidity detection sensors in places where those devices are commonly used, such as bathrooms and locker rooms. The sensors would alert school officials to a spike in humidity caused by e-cigarettes in those locations through a desktop application or mobile app.

As state finalists, the team has won a Samsung tablet for their classroom. VapeBusters will be judged on the following criteria as it advances in competition: Clear problem identification; application of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) studies in proposed solution; community impact; originality; and feasibility.

This team also competed at the regional Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP) competition at Western Kentucky University in December 2018, scoring 91 out of 100 possible points; and advanced to the finals of the Lieutenant Governor’s Entrepreneurial Challenge earlier this year.

“The issue of young people getting sick from using Juuls, e-cigarettes and other vaping products is of great concern to all of us,” said team sponsor Barney Hall, who serves as business education teacher and technology coordinator at Daviess County High School. “The concept of VapeBusters is a way to combat that usage in schools.”

Note to Media – Contact Stephen “Barney” Hall for more information or to schedule interviews – Stephen.hall@daviess.kyschools.us or 270-852-7300. Note DCPS schools are closed Nov. 27-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Learn more about the Samsung “Solve for Tomorrow” program here: <https://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/>

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