

WMST students participate in Johns Hopkins Engineering Program

Five Washington Math Science Technology PCHS students took part in a three-week program this month sponsored by Johns Hopkins University to help them think like engineers and expose them to engineering career opportunities by enrolling in an undergraduate Introductory to Engineering course.

Most of the students are rising seniors, according to Mr. Mohammed Nouristani, the WMST science teacher who coordinates the Johns Hopkins Engineering Innovation program for the school. He has taught at WMST since 2000. This is the second year that WMST PCHS has participated in JHU Engineering Innovation.

The final class took place July 27, and the program was held at the University of the District of Columbia. Laboratory experiments included mousetrap design and construction and robot assembly. Students also worked in teams to verbally respond to a Request for Proposals, design a mini Spaghetti Bridge and complete a research essay. Engineering Innovation is designed to help students develop the skills to think and problem solve like engineers.

“They were exposed to electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and civil engineering,” Nouristani said. “They also got exposed to some robotics. It was an intense program.” Classes took place Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and there were as many as 18 students in the class, with other students coming from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Students had to have completed Algebra II and Trigonometry to take the Engineering Innovation course.

For more information, please visit the Johns Hopkins Engineering Innovation website at <http://engineering-innovation.jhu.edu/>.