



219 North Main Street, Suite 402, Barre, VT 05641 | 802-479-1030 | www.education.vermont.gov

Three Schools take top honors in 2nd annual 3D Modeling Event **Student teams from 23 schools compete in town history contest**

BARRE---Three Vermont schools, two high schools and a middle school, took top honors in the 2nd annual 3D Vermont Modeling Event last Friday, March 25. Windsor High School, holding its winning title from last year, took the top slot as First Prize winner in the High School category. Their models included the Windsor Prison building and surrounding structures. Enosburg High School placed 2nd in the High School category with their model of the Spavin Cure Building, a prominent historic factory structure in downtown Enosburg. The Middle school winning team was Castleton Village School with their depiction of the Castleton Medical College.

3D Vermont is a now annual competition amongst Vermont schools to create digital 3D-printed models of historic town buildings and study the history and background of the buildings and towns at the same time. Students from 36 school teams have been working since October of 2015 to create the structures in SketchUP, a computer drafting and modeling software. Students then created the 3D structures on locally owned 3D printers. More than 20 of those teams finished their models and joined the competition on Friday.

The Vermont Agency of Education worked with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Hartford School District, SketchUP, CDW-G, CTL Computers, and Vermont Technical College to organize the event. This year saw a doubling of team entries. Event Founder Mike Hathorn from Hartford High School worked diligently with a support team all school year to provide training to get their models ready. Hathorn created the concept of the competition from a project he did a few years ago around creating historic town centers online with SketchUP.

Speakers on Friday included Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe, Laura Trieschmann from the VT Division of Historic Preservation, Dan Smith, president of Vermont Tech College, Katarina Lisaius, from the offices of Sen. Bernie Sanders and event founder Mike Hathorn. Judges worked through the morning, reviewing presentations, models, and drawings, and prizes were awarded at noon.

This year, there was also a People's Choice Award, and three schools were chosen by the audience as their favorites-- Williston Central School, Champlain Valley HS, and Mater Christi School. A great day was had by all.

For additional information about the day's activities, contact Peter Drescher at the Agency of Education peter.drescher@state.vt.us or 802-479-1169. For more information about the project, go to <http://3dvermont.org/>.

Follow the event on Twitter at #3DVermont.

Connect with the Vermont Agency of Education on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/VTEducation>), Facebook (www.facebook.com/VTEducation), and YouTube (www.youtube.com/VTEducation).

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