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Mertz students participate in program



Bath County High School students Zach Rose, Charles Offer and Tyler Thompson participated in Kid Talks at the Virginia Society for Technology in Education annual conference in Roanoke Sunday, Dec. 6. They discussed their wind turbine project that has been entered in KidWind competitions. (Photo courtesy Ed Ozols)

ROANOKE — Bath County High School students from Mertz Career and Technical Center participated in Kid Talks at the Virginia Society for Technology in Education annual conference in Roanoke Sunday, Dec. 6.

Kid Talks is based on the popular “Ted Talks,” which can be viewed online. Zach Rose, Charles Offer, and Tyler Thompson are all members of the BCHS KidWind wind turbine design teams that compete against other schools to see which design can produce the most electricity with a given amount of wind.

Rose, Offer, and Thompson are returning members from last year’s award-winning team. The students talked about how their projects involved creativity, were student-centered, and helped pull together concepts they have learned in their core classes such as math, science, and English. “Educators from around the state talked with our students and asked them questions about the project,” instructor Ed Ozols said.

The students discussed not only the green energy aspects of the project, but also talked about the design process and what they thought that they could do to improve their design for the next state competition in March. “Several districts are returning home with plans on starting their own KidWind teams because of our successes,” Ozols said.

The eighth grade exploratory classes at BCHS had their first in-house wind turbine competition Friday, Dec. 4. Earlier in the semester, several wind turbine design teams were formed. The teams competed against each other to see how much power each wind turbine could generate.

Tyler Riley and Jacob Hise were the first place team. In addition, several designs by upperclassmen were unveiled and the returning team

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Bottom: Tyler Riley and Jacob Hise were the winning team in an eighth grade exploratory class wind turbine building project. Riley, right, is presented a certificate by electricity teacher Larry Grubbs. (Photo courtesy Ed Ozols)

members explained what the eighth graders would need to change to be successful in competitions against other schools.

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