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## Tech Prep students present projects at regional showcase

*BY JAMES PROFFITT*

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FREMONT -- More than 100 students spent Tuesday presenting concept projects to judges at the Northwest Ohio Regional Tech Prep Showcase at Terra Community College.

Ed Harper, workforce development council director of Tech Prep, said seniors graduating from participating programs have generally earned between 15 and 20 college credits before they leave high school.

"One girl has 52 credits," said Harper.

He described Tuesday's event as a presentation of senior projects to business and industry professionals from northwest Ohio who act as judges.

"It's the culmination of what they've been working on their senior year," he said.

One team used computer models and topographical information to make a scientific case for connecting several Ohio streams. The result, they claimed, would significantly reduce flooding.

Another team, from Millstream Career and Tech Center in Findlay, studied a production process at Whirlpool and invented a universal stud template for use by the company, they said.

Juan Gonzalez described his team's template as a new cost-saving measure.

"It'll save Whirlpool between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year," he said.

The universal template, he explained, consists of two templates that replace the current seven the company uses on to attach door handles on its dishwasher assembly line.

"This is original," Gonzalez said, "and they'll start using it back at the factory tomorrow."

Judge Brenda Kuieck, from Valley View Health Care Center in Fremont, said she was learning a lot about the community and the students.

"I was impressed, I'll tell you," she said.

Projects were judged on criteria ranging from presentation and technical knowledge to growth opportunities and innovations.

Aaron Burrow and his team, from the Tech Center in Fremont, developed Multimedia Ad hoc Protocol Suite, or MAPS. For the tech-weary, it appeared to be too much. But for everyone else, apparently, it's the next thing coming.

"...routers, wi-fi, peer-to-peer sharing and high-level encryption on the road, on planes and at business meetings," Burrow explained.

"Down the road it'll be beneficial to businesses and schools," said teammate John Neiling, "And it would really change the internet technology industry."

A total of about \$20,000 in scholarships went to winning teams Tuesday.

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A panel of judges surrounds a pair of students as they give their presentation during the Northwest Ohio Tech Prep Regional Show-case at Terra Community College on Tuesday. (Jonathon Bird News-Messenger)