

PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Promoting economic growth, leadership and education within the City of Portsmouth

BUSINESS serving **COMMUNITY**

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STEM EXPO IS A HIT!

If you were given a clean sheet of paper and asked to design a curriculum that would instill in school kids a fascination with the beauty of our physical world, what would it look like? Surely you'd want them to develop a keen observer's eye for detail. And, while you'd want to foster a love for the sheer magic of mother nature, you'd want to show kids the mechanical laws that apply, as well. The ideal program would begin in pre-Kindergarten, and extend through high school, with SOL principles woven into each year of study – even as it reached beyond mere testing goals, and fostered creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork. You'd want after-school activities and summer programs, and you'd want to reach out to include the valuable participation of community partners – non-profits, colleges, universities, corporations, and others. And, you'd want to be sure that **all of the program's resources were provided to EVERY school kid, every year**. Take heart: **Portsmouth Public Schools has such a program**, and it was on full display at the 7th Annual **STEM EXPO**, held at Wilson High School on March 28.



Hallways, open areas and classrooms were jammed with moms, dads, grandparents – even baby strollers - as nearly 100 teachers and school employees, along with 38 special exhibitors, hosted nearly 650 kids and their families. Families came not just to observe, but to participate in the activities offered by exhibitors who offered insights into the makeup of cells, the method behind 3-D printing, the manipulation and applications of open-source Arduino code, and much more. Team Portsmouth's "First Robot" squad – who qualified 13th of 65 teams in recent competition - brought a life-sized robot to the event.



As it weaved its way through the crowd, people wondered who was at the controls? Next door, the VEX squad put its smaller robots' capabilities on display. In the main foyer, kids teamed up to see whose LEGO bridge could support the most weight while, in an adjacent classroom, families teamed up to race helium balloons around a race course. Hands-on. Engaging. Fun! And representing a curriculum that is **provided to EVERY Portsmouth school student, every year!**

To develop the most potent program possible, Portsmouth Schools have reached beyond the classroom and mere textbooks to develop relationships with community partners who provide valuable real-world input. Current participants comprise a "who's who" list of Hampton Roads powerhouses: SimIS, BRICKHEDZ, 757 Makerspace, VMASC, Opportunity Inc, ODU, Norfolk State University, TCC, the Elizabeth River Project, the U.S. Navy, SPAWAR, and others provide instruction, facilities, transportation and more to advance Portsmouth's school kids through their ambitious STEM pathway.

Portsmouth Schools have created a powerful, unique program. It's woven through **all grades**, includes **all students**, and includes outside private- and public-sector relationships. It's fun, it's hands-

-on, and it proves the maxim: **"Tell me and I forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."** Prove it to yourself: plan to attend next year's 8th Annual STEM EXPO!





Community partners: U.S. Navy

SimIS

Wheelabrator

VMASC

2nd Annual All Points Portsmouth
A Historical & Fun Scavenger Hunt!

WHO? YOU! Form a four person team, hunt for treasure and vie for amazing prizes! Best costumed team gets an awesome prize as well, so go all out!

WHAT? All Points Portsmouth is an adventurous, interactive and fun filled scavenger hunt across beautiful and historic Portsmouth, VA! Teams race to beat the clock as they uncover clues and discover long hidden secrets of this unique seaport city.

WHERE? North Landing Park
6 Crawford Parkway™ Olde Towne Portsmouth

WHEN? April 25, 2015

1:00 - 1:30 - Registration and Welcome
1:30 - 3:30 - Teams scour downtown Portsmouth by foot for clues, adventure, and treasure!
3:30 - 5:00 - Awards, prizes, food, drink, music, and fun!

To register: www.portsmouthpartnership.org/lefcoc/allpointsportsmouth

EVENT SPONSORS

QUESTION: What event combines Portsmouth's great history with great people, great fun, a great cause . . . even great exercise?

ANSWER: The Lefcoe Alumni Association's 2nd Annual **ALL POINTS PORTSMOUTH** historical scavenger hunt!

SIGN UP TODAY!

www.portsmouthpartnership.org/lefcoc/allpointsportsmouth

JOB, INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES . . .

Is your company looking for seasonal or summer help? The **Portsmouth Public School System** has responsible students eager to work in the areas of nursing, culinary arts, child care, the hospitality industry, industrial welding, and more. To find out how you, your company and our kids can benefit, please contact:

Craig Hill, Coordinator, Career and Technical Education

Portsmouth Public Schools: 822-2711 or 822-2927

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PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH - PHRA
GPDC 16 years 1,000 jobs \$22,000,000 tax revenue

