

PRESS RELEASE

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Flagler County Schools collects over two hundred awards at recent Florida Future Problem Solving Affiliate competition!

Prepared by the Future Problem Solving Program of Flagler County / Andy Dance

Entrepreneur.com printed an article describing the top 11 reasons Millennials get fired (1). Blogger Trevor Muir (www.TrevorMuir.com) summarized the top five from the article as:

1. The need for independence
2. Lack of confidence
3. Anxiety
4. Miscommunication
5. Lack of vision.

Essentially, he said, the main reason Millennials get fired is that they can't collaborate, they lack confidence in themselves and their decisions, which can lead to anxiety, they struggle to present and communicate and are not critically thinking to see overall goals and vision (2).

How does the Flagler County School District combat these deficiencies in our students? How do we better prepare students to excel in the workforce?

One solution is teaching students **problem-solving skills** at an early age and reinforcing them through high school graduation. Recent research (cps.adobeeducate.com) shows that educators and policymakers agree that tomorrow's jobs will demand creative problem-solving skills. This research identified the following skills as critical to successful creative problem solving:

1. Learning through success & failure
2. Working within diverse teams
3. Independent learning
4. Accepting challenges & taking risks
5. Innovative thinking

6. Process & investigation
7. Persistence, grit & entrepreneurial spirit

In Flagler County schools, we teach creative problem-solving and decision-making skills like the ones listed above (and more) through the **Future Problem Solving Program (FPS)**. FPS is an academic program that prepares students for competitive problem-solving. Students apply critical thinking and problem-solving processes to address hypothetical future situations. In Community Problem Solving (CmPS), students take local community issues and apply the same critical thinking and problem-solving methods to develop solutions that benefit the community.

Every March, the **Florida Future Problem Solving Program (FLFPSP.org)** brings together the affiliate programs from all over the state for two days of competition. Flagler Schools has a strong history of excellence at the state competition, thanks to Flagler Palm Coast High School educator and FPS coach **Diane Tomko**. Ms. Tomko introduced FPS to the Flagler School District 26 years ago, as a middle school teacher under the tutelage of Belle Terre Middle School Principal Buddy Taylor. She later brought the program with her to FPCHS, and it has flourished ever since. The program spread throughout the District and now includes five elementary schools and both middle schools. Ms. Tomko is retiring this year, and we want to thank her for her vision and commitment to excellence that established and maintained the FPS program for so many years!

2019 has been another great year for FPS and CmPS students in Flagler County schools! The following summary of results from the 2019 Florida FPS Affiliate Competition shows just how seriously Flagler Schools takes FPS competition!

- A total of **332 students** attended the Florida FPS Affiliate competition from six different schools (Flagler Palm Coast High School, Indian Trails Middle School, Buddy Taylor Middle School, Rymfire Elementary School, Bunnell Elementary School & Old Kings Elementary School)
- These Flagler Schools students brought home a total of **236 awards**, including one “Best Writer” and four CmPS “Grand Champion” projects.

- A total of **72 students** from three schools received invitations to compete at the **FPSPi International Competition in June at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.**

Below is a summary of students invited to FPSPi International Competition, June 5-9 at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst:

Flagler Palm Coast High School

Coaches: Diane Tomko, Caitlin Hutsell & Sarah Reckenwald

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)

Middle Division (grades 7-9)/Teams

Education and Civic Category

1st Place: “Juuls are for Fuuls”

- Nicholas Bereznicki, E Hawkins, Alexandra Khoriakov, Kenneth Logan, Jerry Mock, Cole Thomas

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)

Senior Division (grades 10-12)/Teams *(there are no sub-categories for the senior division)*

1st Place: “Hours4Ours”

- Caroline Rizzo, Rylee Millikan, Lily Murphy, Ashley Buglione, Emma Tice, Tate Underberg

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)

Senior Division/Individuals:

2nd Place: “Think Out Loud” - Valerie Diaz

1ST Place: “Root to Rise” - Ekaterena Kouzina

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)

GRAND CHAMPION - SENIOR DIVISION

“FPC BULLDOG PATROL”

- Nicholas Blumengarten, William Patin, Abbigail Carver, Gabrielle Jackson, Sydni Leon, Katia Martynuk

**GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS)
Senior Division/Teams**

2nd Place: Sarah Main , Michael Pierre, Terra White, Matthew Pokorny
3rd Place: Cassandra Ventura, Chase Smith, Will Patin, Kevin Tyler

**GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS)
Senior Division/Individual**

3rd Place: Brock Underberg
4TH Place: Kyleigh Ruddy

Global Issues Scenario Performance

Senior:

1st place: Elisa Figliuzzi
2nd place: Katia Martynuk

Indian Trails Middle School

Coaches: Jennifer Colindres & Judy Colindres

**COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)
Middle Division/Teams**

GRAND CHAMPION – JUNIOR DIVISION

“Project SKILLS”

- Chloey Rudy, Veronica King, Katelyn Telfer, Genesis Epstein, Robert Miller, Carlos Silva, Matthew Nevod, Paige Reckenwald, Ben Kopach, John Newman, Victoria Ganung

**GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS) - TEAMS
Middle Division**

2nd Place: Jackson Castaneda, Daniella Fernandes, Jack Petocz, Alyssa Vidal

GLOBAL ISSUES PROBLEM SOLVING (GIPS) - INDIVIDUAL

2nd Place: Cameron Driggers

Rymfire Elementary School

*Coaches: Tim Ruddy, Amy Kopach, Caryn Burris, Kate Sturman,
Judy White & Jennifer Lujan*

COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING (CmPS)

Junior Division/Teams

Education/Health/Environment Category

GRAND CHAMPION

“A.R.T.S.” (Appreciating Reviving and Teaching Skills)

- Morgan Chafe, Reese Dingle, Noah Doolin, Ava Wheaton, Connor D’Agostino, Abigail Blumengarten, Aniyah Graham, Liliana Lisowski, Layla Croslin, Savannah Tawbush
- COACH = Amy Kopach

Human Issues Category

1st Place

“T.R.A.I.N.” (Training Rescued Animals in Need)

- Ashley Kassin, Wyatt Christlieb, Jacob Moss, Aria King, Desirae Astrologo, Desmond Akmentins, Jasmine Santana, Nyla King,
- COACH = Kate Sturman

GRAND CHAMPION

“P.A.L.S.” (Positive Acts Lift Students)

- Samantha Newell, Halley Londono, Marion Clayton, Anna Gimbel, Kade Manley, Jack Wronowski, Kyleigh Brown
- COACH = Tim Ruddy

GLOBAL ISSUES SCENARIO WRITING

Individual - Junior Division:

1st Place - Jack Mikutel

The above results are just the tip of the iceberg! Let’s recognize all the students who came home with awards from state competition. Attached please find the complete summary of results for each school that won awards.

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1. Entrepreneur.com - <https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/305852>
 2. TrevorMuir.com - <http://www.trevormuir.com/new-blog-avenue/soft-skills>

For more information on FPS in Flagler County, visit www.FlaglerFPS.com or email us at info@FlaglerFPS.com. Donations are accepted, and sponsorships are available to help students attend the International Competition. The cost for students, including registration, lodging, food and travel expenses is approximately \$1,100 per student. Flagler FPS works year-round to raise funds with the sole purpose of reducing the cost for students to attend an International competition. Flamingo Flocking is our signature fundraiser; however, we have other opportunities available for the community to get involved. Please visit online at www.FlaglerFPS.com.

