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FUELING STUDENT APPETITES FOR EFFICIENT VEHICLES IN GLENCOE

Glencoe, MN, 12/28/2016—Twenty-one students and teachers from Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams at Hutchinson High School and Glencoe-Silver Lake High School participated in a recent YES! Winter Workshop at Glencoe-Silver Lake High School on December 15, 2016. This workshop educated students about renewable and efficient automotive design practices, allowing them to connect with experts and gain information to position them for success as they excel in team-based projects this school year.

Students heard from multiple speakers throughout the workshop. Jim Wallace, Joe Wambeke, and Theron Busse from the Ridgewater College Auto Body Collision Technology Program talked to the students about industry standards and encouraged them to apply practices from the real world into their designs for the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge in Brainerd. They also demonstrated a glass engine, which showed how different fuel sources can impact an engine.

Following the Ridgewater College presenters, students heard from Alexander Vanden Bussche and Akshay Patil from the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project who spoke about their experience racing solar vehicles around the world. When asked what two biggest pieces of advice they could give to the students, their answer was “design, finalize, and then build the car” and “constant constructive communication.”

Both Hutchinson and Glencoe-Silver Lake teams will be designing and building vehicles for the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge and MRES Solar Boat Regatta this year. More information about the teams can be found on the YES! website.

ABOUT YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT

YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, recycling, composting, local foods, and more. YES! operates in collaboration with Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, Ney Nature Center, Lakes Country Service Cooperative, and Sauk River Watershed District. Major funding for the 2016-2017 season is provided by the McKnight Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, a constitutionally-established permanent fund for protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). For more information, visit www.youthenergysummit.org

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