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Steffen Eighth-Graders Dominate at MSOE Tech & Engineering Event

MEQUON, Wis. – A group of students from Steffen Middle School won three out of four events at last week's Fluid Power Challenge at the Milwaukee School of Engineering campus.

This was the first year that Steffen participated in the two-day competition, which is held annually at MSOE and organized by the National Fluid Power Association (NFPA). Students have been working on fluid engineering projects for several weeks, and their work was recognized at the "Challenge Day" event on Friday, December 9.

"We are very proud of our eighth-grade students for really showcasing their skill and talent at this regional competition," said Dr. Demond Means, Superintendent of the Mequon-Thiensville School District. "The dedication and hard work that these young people have put forth is a point of pride for our entire school district, and showcases the outstanding abilities of all our students."

The Fluid Power Challenge introduces students to fluid power while engaging them in a fun and challenging learning environment. It allows them to learn real-world team building and communication skills as well as introduces them to fluid power as a potential career. Fluid power is the use of fluid under pressure to generate energy.

Twenty students from Steffen participated in the event, working together in teams of four to solve different engineering problems using fluid power. The students have been working on their projects since the competition's workshop day on November 11, when they learned about fluid power and developed skills that they could use during the challenge. On Friday, Steffen students won three out of the four competitions.

"The students have been working hard for several weeks, and they saw their hard work pay off in a big way," said Means. "No school has ever done this well on their first time out in this challenge, and they did very well against some tough competition."

The students were led by Matt Heuser, a technology and engineering teacher at Steffen. This is the first year that the school has participated in the event.

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