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HORIZON SCHOOLS HOST STATEHOUSE STEM FAIR

Students from across Ohio gather to show projects, meet with legislators

COLUMBUS, OH 5/19/15– Horizon Schools hosted students from 14 schools at the Statehouse yesterday for STEM project day.

Students showed science projects ranging from a machine that created a tornado from dry ice to a 3-D printing demonstration to a life size hover craft powered by leaf blowers. Elementary, middle and high school students from Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo, Cleveland and Youngstown participated.

Legislators, legislative staff, parents, teachers and State Auditor David Yost took in the presentations and discussed projects with the students.

Columbus area communications manager Kristin Sony helped organize the event.

“This is our second year at the statehouse and we’ve found that the legislators really enjoy getting to know the kids and see their work,” Sony said. “The hovercraft is always popular and this year Auditor Yost seemed to truly enjoy a demonstration about magnetic acceleration.”

Regional Superintendent for Columbus Horizon Schools David Disli says that the event took on a different air this year after months of complaints from anti-charter school forces and being cleared by the Department of Education.

“We did this event last year before the complaints started and we wanted to keep it going for the sake of the students who work hard on their projects,” Sony said. “And it was important for legislators to meet and talk with Horizon students instead of only hearing from and taking the word of people with a political ax to grind.”

Horizon schools have long taken a lead in STEM education in Ohio. In April, they hosted their 12th annual CONSEF science and engineering fair in Cleveland featuring over 800 attendees and 26 “best in class” award winners.

Several of those set up at the statehouse on Monday were CONSEF participants.

For more information about Horizon Schools, visit ConceptSchools.org. For information about CONSEF visit www.CONSEF.org