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**ST. BEDE SCHOOL WINS 18TH ANNUAL PITTSBURGH REGIONAL
FUTURE CITY COMPETITION**

STUDENTS DESIGN CITIES ILLUSTRATING “THE POWER OF PUBLIC SPACE”

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 21, 2017— Twenty-eight schools participated today at Carnegie Music Hall for the Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition, sponsored by Carnegie Science Center and DiscoverE. Winning top honors was the team from St. Bede School, which has taken first place in four of the past eight years, including victories in 2010, 2013, and 2014.

The team won a trip to the 25th annual Future City National Finals in Washington, D.C., Feb. 18-21, 2017 (during National Engineers Week), where they will compete with the winners from 36 other regional competitions. National grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

Each year, Future City presents themes that highlight a current issue and asks middle school kids to investigate and come up with solutions. Students start with a research essay describing their concept, then write a City Description outlining the key features of their city. Participants in this year’s Future City Competition designed innovative, forward- looking cities exemplifying “the power of public space.” Then they built a physical model using recycled materials at a cost of no more than \$100. Students also wrote brief abstracts describing their city and presented and defended their designs before a panel of engineer judges, who tested the depth of the teams’ knowledge.

St. Bede School, located in in the Point Breeze neighborhood of Pittsburgh, created a city called Zumala, the City of Fellowship, located on the Nile River with a population of 300,000, in the year 3064. Their distinctive model included a front view of the city and a back view of its aquifers. Among the city’s features is a plastic waste dump reclaimed by planting edible mushrooms that feed on plastic. The city uses plants to filter impurities from water. A highway has been repurposed as a boardwalk for public recreation, including a theme park. The highly imaginative presentation was delivered by students Anna Cappella, Lindsey Bonavita, and Gwen Havern. Advising the team were teacher Elizabeth Killmeyer and volunteer engineer mentor Paul Lovejoy. St. Bede School has participated in the Future City Competition every year since its inception.

Coming in second was Fort Couch Middle School, located in Upper St. Clair, which created Magbahagi, a complete overhaul of Manila. Marion Center Junior High School, in Indiana County, won third place. The Ellis School, which took top honors the last two years, came in fourth. West Mifflin Middle School came in fifth.

A number of special awards were conferred by various sponsors. Rookie of the Year Award, for best first-time entrant, went to St. Rosalia Academy, in the Greenfield neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Student participants voted for the Student Choice Award, which went to Derry Area Middle School, in Westmoreland County. That school wins a field trip to Carnegie Science Center.

“All of the students who participated are winners, whether or not they took home awards today,” said Lisa Kosick, Carnegie Science Center staff educator and Future City Competition regional coordinator. “They all did an amazing job, and it was inspiring to see their work. We are all rooting for St. Bede to take the national championship.”

Participating schools were:

- Baden Academy Media Lab
- Beaver Falls Middle School
- Bridge Street Middle School
- Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy
- Derry Area Middle School
- Ellis School
- Fort Couch Middle School
- Ligonier Valley Middle School
- Manchester Academic Charter School
- Marion Center Jr./Sr. High School
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
- Pittsburgh CAPA
- Propel Braddock Hills Elementary
- Propel Charter Schools - Northside
- Propel East
- Propel McKeesport
- Propel Montour
- Propel Pitcairn
- Sewickley Academy
- Smethport Area School District
- Springdale Jr./Sr. High School

St. Bede School
St. Bernadette School
St. Edmund's Academy
St. Rosalia Academy
Triadelphia Middle School
West Mifflin Area School District
Wheeling Middle School

The [Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition](#) is presented annually by Carnegie Science Center, as a program of the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development. Local sponsors for the competition include Shell, The Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Health Department, American Society of Civil Engineers, AECOM, Bechtel, The Buhl Foundation, Henry C. Frick Educational Fund, and Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Established in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2015, the museums reached more than 1.4 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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