Greetings to All!

Sorry for the late release of the news (I know you probably were waiting eagerly…) but this kept taking the backseat to everything else. I have been busy writing grants, attending meetings, working on the SX renovation, and a number of other items with some school visits as I am able. I hope that my ability to get out into schools increases as I make it through this first year in my ever-evolving position. There are so many great achievements happening in our schools and you should all continue to be so proud of Garrett County Public Schools and your work within this system. I can say that from my new vantage point, I can see even more clearly how much EVERYONE does, all the time, for our schools and for our students. The many professional accomplishments of our staff warm my heart on this chilly March morning as I anticipate more snow tomorrow.

Some exciting news from the Property Owners’ Association of Deep Creek Lake— they have purchased compact training equipment consisting of 50 training manikins and 12 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training devices. These will be neatly stored in travel kits at the Garrett College Continuing Education Department and will be available to anyone for group training purposes. It is our hope to begin to provide “Hands Only” CPR training to staff and students in anticipation of the passage of House Bill 1366 or Breanna’s Law. In an area where there are many remotely located homes and response services are primarily voluntary, timely response by those in proximity may make the difference between life and death until rescue crews arrive. Please support this Bill and our efforts as a system to address this need for our community in collaboration with area agencies and concerned citizens. For more information, go to http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/ and search for HB 1366.

SB 740 Transition Course Reporting Requirements have been presented to the Governor and will await word for additional work that needs completed.

Michelle Harman
NHS Student Selected for National Youth Science Camp!

Congratulations to Senior, Ben Nairn!!

Northern High School Senior Ben Nairn was notified that he is the recipient of a full scholarship for the 2014 National Youth Science Camp held in Bartow, WV. Only two Maryland high school seniors are selected for this opportunity. This month-long experience will allow Ben to hear lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation, overnight camping trips into the Monogahela National Forest and a visit to Washington, D.C.

Congratulations, Ben and enjoy this "once in a lifetime" experience!

For more information about this opportunity and others like it, visit [http://www.nysf.com/](http://www.nysf.com/) or contact Michelle Harman.

Derek Berger Selected as Siemens STARs Fellow!

Derek Berger, a teacher at Northern and the current Garrett County Teacher of the Year, was recently selected as a Siemens STARs Fellow and thus will participate in the 2014 Siemens Teachers as Researchers (STARs) Program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in July 2014.

As one of 40 educators selected nationwide, Derek will attend a two-week research experience at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), mini-workshops on transitioning research into the classroom, and continuing collaborative opportunities with ORNL scientists and other educators.

This unique professional development opportunity is sponsored by the Siemens Foundation as a component of the Siemens STEM Academy, in partnership with Discovery Education and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Derek is also guest scientist for The Ruth Enlow Library free four-part reading, viewing, and discussion series for adults this spring called “Pushing the Limits.” Ruth Enlow is one of 75 rural public libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series. Pushing the Limits brings together books and video featuring authors, scientists, and everyday people who thrive on exploring the natural world.

All programs will be held at the Oakland Library, once per month on Mondays from 6 – 7:30 p.m., on March 17, April 28, May 19, and June 16. Registration is required for each program by contacting Bonnie at 301-334-3996, x117 or bonnie@relib.net.

The group discussions will cover the following topics and books:

* March: SURVIVAL - Clive Cussler, Arctic Drift
* April: CONNECTION - Erik Larson, Thunderstruck
* May: NATURE - T.C. Boyle, When the Killing's Done
* June: KNOWLEDGE - Jean Auel, The Land of Painted Caves

Derek Berger, 2013-2014 Garrett County Teacher of the Year, is the library’s science partner in Pushing the Limits. He will lead a discussion of the book and videos of author interviews and human-interest stories at each program. Berger holds a B.S. in Astronomy and Astrophysics from Pennsylvania State University and a M.A. in Secondary Education from Frostburg State University. He has participated in curriculum development, led student-centered engineering projects, attended the MSDE Educator Effectiveness Academy, and presented STEM professional development. Outside of school, he works with several non-profit organizations in hopes of making a positive impact on learners from many backgrounds and of all ages.
For middle and high school teachers of science, math, and technology and guidance counselors!

DEADLINE APRIL 18th!

To help develop tomorrow’s technical talent, Northrop Grumman’s Electronic Systems (ES) sector introduced the TEAACH (Teachers and Engineers for Academic Achievement) internship program several years ago.

For more than two decades, ES employees have taken part in programs to engage young students (K-12) in discussion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines as possible careers. At its simplest, this form of community outreach allows engineers to convey their enthusiasm about engineering provides the students with some exciting and relevant activities and helps promote science and math in our schools.

But forecasts show that our nation faces a critical shortage of engineers that makes it all the more important for communities – educators, parents and legislators – to increase the emphasis on science and math, as a foundation for technology and research affecting both the nation’s economy and its security.

It's an important and urgent message that we need to communicate broadly. As a result of mentoring programs like WORTHY and DiscoverE, Northrop Grumman has received an increasing number of requests from schools to have engineers visit and provide an overview of career options in engineering and technology. One response to this request is the creation of the TEAACH program to partner with teachers to influence an even larger number of students.

Program Objectives

- Assist mathematics, science and technology education teachers in integrating engineering concepts and applications into the classroom;
- Acquaint educator-interns with various engineering disciplines in a high tech environment;
- Promote engineering as a challenging, multi-dimensional and exciting career choice;
- Expose teachers to best practice demonstrations, experiments and classroom applications;
- Provide hands-on/shadowing opportunity for real-world engineering application; and

Eligibility

To be considered for participation in the TEAACH Program, applicants must be a middle school mathematics, science or technology education teacher or guidance counselor for the year of the program and able to secure a Department of Defense Clearance (must be a U.S. citizen to qualify).

Visit http://www.northropgrumman.com/CorporateResponsibility/Community/Pages/teaach.aspx for more information!
Southern Lady Rams Take State Championship!

Congratulations to the 2013-14 MPSSAA State Champion Southern High School Lady Rams Basketball Team! The girls won in front of a fantastic Garrett County crowd in Towson's University's SECU Arena, defeating Baltimore County's New Town High School 52-47 to win the school's third state title.

[Image of Southern High School Basketball Team]

SHS JROTC Cadet Colton Wassell Wins Recognition!

Colton Wassell, a senior and a fourth year army JROTC cadet at Southern Garrett high school, received notice that his essay “How JROTC Builds Character and Leadership” was selected to be in the top 10 out of 170 essays submitted to the fourth JROTC region.

Each year the Army's Cadet Command sponsors an essay contest for the 1731 high schools that have the JROTC program. The contest allows only one essay from each school to be submitted at the brigade level for evaluation. Of those essays submitted to the brigades, only five are allowed to go forward to cadet command for final evaluation and selection for national awards.

Although Wassell's essay wasn't selected for further evaluation at the national level, a panel of three judges at Fort Bragg stated that his essay was an A+ rating and 'in the top 10' from the six states and District of Columbia that make up the brigade's region.

"I'm very happy with my efforts" Wassell said, and "glad that I could show (in the essay) how JROTC builds character by making this trait's concept more concrete for cadets."

Congratulations to the NHS FFA and their Regional Competition Performance!

Kaley Hare - 1st Creed Speaking
Emily Opel - 1st Prepared Public Speaking
Miranda Rounds - 4th Extemporaneous Speaking
Ag Mechanics Team (William Menges, Sam Martz, Dakota Moreland & Michael Rodeheaver) - 2nd Place

[Photo of Kaley Hare, Emily Opel, Miranda Rounds, and Andrea House]

[Photo of Blazer Band with Front Row: Kaley Hare, Emily Opel, Miranda Rounds and Andrea House Back Row: Michael Rodeheaver, Sam Martz, William Menges, Dakota Moreland and Jerhett Sines]