



# The WLC Reporter



## WLC Students Attend Bridge Building Competition at NHTI

By Justin Kane



Twenty two students from WLC's Technology Education/Woodworking classes traveled to the New Hampshire Technical Institute on November 27 for the NHDOT's annual Bridge Building Competition. Participants in the competition construct popsicle stick and hot glue bridges over three feet long to strict design parameters. On the day of the event in Concord student bridges are tested to failure by gradually adding weights until they break, and the winners are judged by comparing bridge weight to the load they were able to support. Other categories in the event include classic and original bridge design. NHDOT Civil Engineer Emily Polychronopoulos, E.I.T. has worked closely with our students, visiting with presentations on engineering careers and the competition, and dropping off bridge building supplies.



Neal Brennan, Nick Hughes, and Cody Swett strength test bridge elements in the shop with help from Coach Finch.

The NH Department of Transportation's TRAC Bridge Building Competition is one in which our students have participated very successfully in the past. Re-instituting it in the Tech Ed curriculum affords our students an opportunity to develop and deepen their understandings of civil engineering, engineering design, and group-based planning and construction.

This year's competition served as an educational resource for WLC students, who completed research and design elements of the project before the competition and will construct their bridges using knowledge gained at the event. When completed, the NHDOT has offered to visit with the official testing apparatus so students will be able to compare their results against the earlier competitors. Students have been quite vocal about plans for success at next year's competitions.



## WLC Makes Community Connections During National Hispanic Month!

The middle school Spanish students were super-duper excited to celebrate *National Hispanic Month* with a community member who came to the classroom to share stories about her life. National Hispanic Month is celebrated from September 15 – October 15; it is a time to acknowledge the contributions made by persons of Hispanic descent. This influence can be seen worldwide in food, art, architecture, music, dance, film, literature, entertainment and more!

Doña Gloria shared stories about her native Ecuador including popular tourist attractions, the unique geography of Ecuador, and the protected animals of the Galapagos Islands including a 120 year old turtle that lived at a primary school! She spoke about her village and how much it had changed since her youth. She delighted the students with her lively tales including one where she was chased by a bull! Doña Gloria brought beautiful artifacts from Ecuador for the students to see. Everyone enjoyed light snacks and lively conversations!

¡Gracias Doña Gloria!



## WLC Students Explore Job Corps

By Katie Gosselin



Austin Fredette, Justin Jennings, Michael Wolf, Dylan Cuddihy, Tyler Stratton, Jailyn Gilcrest, Gavin Sullivan, and Damien Higgins pose for a picture before heading to the Job Corps fair in Manchester.

WLC students went on a field trip to Job Corps in Manchester, NH. Job Corps is a training facility that is no cost to students and provides 'on the job' training in a variety of fields. Some of these programs include; Advanced Manufacturing, Hospitality/Culinary, Health Care (Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant and Medical Office Support), Construction (Electrical and Facilities Management), and Homeland Security. Job Corps also offers a residential option for students to live on campus at no charge, which also includes their food/meal plan. Additionally, Job Corps has a recreational facility with various clubs and sport teams. Job Corps assists students with job placement after completing their program and part-time work opportunities during their time at Job Corps. Students are able to work at their own pace and they have two years to complete their program. The feedback from students on this tour was that they like the variety of career opportunities and the free price tag.

The next Coffee and Conversation with the principals is on December 21 8-9am  
Join us!





### Warriors Supporting Warriors

This year WLC participated in the NH Holiday Card Challenge which is a nonprofit organization that asks NH residents to sign holiday cards for deployed military troops around the world. WLC donated close to 300 cards for this event. Thank you to all who participated in bringing cheer to our service men and women during the holidays!



### It's Better to Give Than to Receive

By Olympia Clark

This summer when I was thinking about the upcoming school year, I spent much time reflecting on what I wanted my students to grasp. As a result, I considered what could be done or taught to improve school climate and culture. I considered what happens when you give to others and how that stirs up feelings of gratitude.

This year we have done numerous things to cultivate that kind of an atmosphere. In November, my Creative Cooking Class hosted a big Thanksgiving feast that was very different from previous years. It was such a collaborative effort among faculty and students. Everyone pitched in to help.



This year we also received donations for our feast from Whole Foods, Walmart, Hannaford's grocery store, Shaw's Supermarket, our very own Nelson's Candy Store in downtown Wilton, NH, and my mother, Pastor Sharon J. Hall. We fed most of the High School, and it was incredible.



My heart is to always give and I would like to instill that in my students. The eighth graders made quilts to give to some of the new teachers. Some are yet to be completed but will be given for sure.



Some of the students in my "For the Love of Leftovers Class" completed and installed our peace pole birdhouse in the Middle school courtyard. We appreciated the input and wise counsel given to us by Mr. Kane. We couldn't have done it without him and they look wonderful.



Family and Consumer Science Class is a wonderful place to be. I try to instill an atmosphere of respect and self-worth, realizing that not all students work at the same level and at the same pace. Students are free to excel and free to learn from their mistakes

My students have created many wonderful things and I also want to acknowledge that I have a wonderful paraprofessional in my room. Sue Rodgers is a wonderful addition to my classroom. I loved having Mrs. Hamlin in my room also. She payed me one of the best compliments ever when she left my classroom. She said, "Every time I come into your room, I feel like I am coming home." I strive to make sure that everyone who enters my classroom has this same feeling.



### WLC Dance Team Scores 2nd Place



The WLC Dance team competed in the New England Cheer and Dance Competition in Boston at the Reggie Lewis Track and Field Center. They came home with 2nd place scoring an 88/100.