

QUARTERLY ASCERTAINMENTS / COMMUNITY ISSUES

STATION: WKKW—November 2020

SUBJECT: NASA Workshop Continues Despite Covid-19 Restrictions.

DISCUSSION:

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, researchers with NASA's Independent Verification and Validation Program (IV&V) found a way to continue Kids Day in the Park. A yearly tradition where normally West Virginia students would visit the I-79 Technology Park Research Center in Fairmont for two days. In response to COVID-19 safety protocols, officials moved the two day event, to a week long virtual event where students were able to listen to several researchers hold learning sessions about various researched topics.

"We had a direct link to our website through the NASA IV&V Education Resource Center Facebook page," explained NASA IV&V Program Education specialist Josh Revels. "And once you are on the Day in the Park Website either through using the URL or finding us on Facebook, all that you have to do is locate the sessions," he said.

During the week students were introduced to various topics that are researched at the Katherine Johnson NASA IV&V. Topics such as outer space and aeronautics were discussed, plus other advanced sciences were covered as well.

"So at the sessions we had STEM professionals, who led talks on science, technology, engineering and math content. They related that content to careers available here in the West Virginia region," he said.

Normally a day involving middle school students from across West Virginia, Day in the Park will now be open to any West Virginia student wishing to learn more about various topics researched at the I-79 Technology Park Research Center. The goal according to Revels is to increase awareness of their efforts to older students. With older eyes potentially seeing advanced space, computer science and other research in action, there's an increased chance of seeing them work in the field in the future.

"These activities and topics are really useful for everybody that would be interested," said Revels. "And so yeah, I can see high school students potentially becoming interns," he said.

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TIME / DURATION: 1:58

GUESTS: NASA IV&V Program Education specialist Josh Revels.

MEDIA INTEREST: Morgantown AM – WAJR, Dominion Post, WVAQ, WKKW, WBOY, WDTV, facebook, twitter

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