



COBB COUNTY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Graduation 2018

COBB STUDENTS DISCOVER NEW CAREER POSSIBILITIES AT FUTURE FEST 2018

A few decades ago, a student in **Brad Wheeler's** classroom may not have heard of an unmanned aerial vehicle or drone. Today however, drone operators are a high demand career field.

Wheeler, who now serves as the chair of the **Cobb County School District (CCSD)** Board of Education, caught up with one of his past students at the district's recent Future Fest. His student now runs a company that employs drones to do roof inspections on buildings. This former student attended the event to educate students about career opportunities that use the modern flying technology.



That's why Future Fest was created.

"We are doing this to promote the careers of the future that our students may not know even exist. The idea is to expose the students to different careers and activities that are interactive," added **Jackie Brown**, CCSD supervisor of career, technology and agriculture education (CTAE).

Brown's CTAE team invited over 1,000 students to explore the 45 exhibits focused on high-demand career fields including construction, architecture, technology, and healthcare science as well as business and culinary fields.

"I definitely think we should have more programs like this open to students so they can figure out what they want to do in life," said **McEachern High School** senior **Myles**, amazed by what he saw at Future Fest.

Chairman Wheeler agreed with Myles, emphasizing how the world is changing and it's important for students to know the jobs that will be available to them in the future.

During Future Fest, students were able to interact with technology that may help them in their jobs one day.

"[One company has] a hologram display where students are able to interact with the hologram of specific body parts. They are able to pull it off the window and manipulate it so they really get an interactive learning experience," explained Brown.

Local businesses were not the only ones looking to educate students at Future Fest.

Student members of the **Kell Robotics** Club used a robot that they designed to shoot balls into the air and collect them. Students, teachers, and business owners alike watched, and sometimes dodged, the yellow balls that popped out of the student-controlled robot.

"We come to events like [Future Fest] to get our message out there. We are trying to get more kids into robotics because it really is a life changing opportunity," explained **Danielle**, a senior at **Kennesaw Mountain High School** and executive director of Kell Robotics.

Danielle, who plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology and study mechanical engineering in the fall, also took the opportunity at Future Fest to encourage girls to get involved in robotics.

"We have had several girls come by, and we have tried to make them understand that [robotics] is not just a boy's activity. You can learn a lot of different things like programming and design," added Danielle.



Go behind the scenes at Future Fest 2018 with the following Cobb edTV video:
<http://goo.gl/9euEpX>

KELL ROBOTICS MAKES HISTORY



During the week of April 18, 2018 tens of thousands of students competed on the world stage at the FIRST Championship presented by Qualcomm® Incorporated. FIRST uses robotics as the backbone of their program. However, FIRST is not just about building robots. They use robotics to build students into people who will transform our world.

The Kell Robotics Team was founded 15 years ago. The team is comprised of high school students who work year-round to promote science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education while making a dedicated effort to reach out to a highly diverse population. The team is made up of students from Cobb high schools including **Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, North Cobb, and Harrison**. Since their inception, they have hosted 320 events ranging from public exhibitions to educational briefings. Their coverage in 6 national magazines has helped to increase their exposure and reach more people as they grow and cultivate their program. Most notably they have assisted in the launch of 25 similar robotics teams across Georgia. In addition, they hosted workshops for the local Girl Scouts teaching them engineering, coding and design.

This year the Kell Robotics Team traveled to Houston, Texas to participate in the 2018 FIRST Championship. The weekend included several events including FIRST LEGO Leagues, FIRST Tech Challenges and the popular FIRST Robotics Competition. As the weekend came to a close, the participants gathered at the closing ceremonies where program awards were announced. Kell Robotics took home their 10th Chairman's Award. The Chairman's Award honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate. The team embodies the purpose and goals of FIRST. The award also recognizes Kell Robotics for their advancement of education in areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. With the award, Kell Robotics earns a place in the organization's hall of fame.

CORRECTION: The team earned their 10th Regional Chairman's Award in the Georgia District which tied the world record. At the Championship the team took home the Championship Chairman's Award and was inducted into the FIRST Hall of Fame.

