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STARBASE Connecticut, a DoD sponsored STEM program, held the first STEM Olympiad at East Hartford High School this past week.

Sixteen teams of 5th through 8th grade East Hartford students competed in the event. The teams made snap circuits, computer models, wind resistant towers, and marshmallow launchers. Scoring was based on meeting specific objectives, thinking creatively, problem solving and teamwork.

The community support for judging the activities was outstanding, with volunteers coming from United Technologies Corporation, QuEST Global, Westinghouse Electric, ManyMentors, and the East Hartford Library.

Many East Hartford High School students played a large role in helping to make the event run smoothly. From setting up, to selling food and cleaning up, the students were a huge help for the event.

After a video produced by ManyMentors was shown to the participants, Keshia Ashe, co-founder and CEO of ManyMentors introduced a couple of STEM "heroes."

Gazment Sosoli, an engineering student at UConn and a mentor at ManyMentors, spoke about how he first about STEM as a fifth grade student at STARBASE. Chris Echevarria and Brandon Gentles, both East Hartford High School students, spoke about their experience at STARBASE in fifth grade and their involvement in STEM now.

The event was a success and congratulations goes out to the three winning teams and their coaches: ACR for the Spirit Award; 3D O'Brien Lions for the Creativity Award; and Made of Einsteinium for the Overall STEM Award.

STARBASE plans to hold the 2nd STEM Olympiad next year.

For original article, click [here](#) ^[1].

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