



Pike Central's MIT Survival Shelter team members stand inside one of the shelters they designed. They are (l to r) Ricky Sizemore, Willy Klueg, Jessica D'Esposito, Blane Gress, Colton Newton, Brooke Riddle, Christian Wilson and C. M. Brown. Not pictured are Anna Woolery and Bri-
anne Lane.

PC design team recognized nationally

By Andy Heuring
Pike Central's Project Lead the Way team is turning heads at the state and national levels. Last week the team was honored during the Indiana Department Education meeting by Indiana State Superintendent Tony Bennett. They also re-

cently had their project named one of 30 national finalists in the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams grant competition.
Project Lead The Way teacher Ray Niehaus said Pike Central was one of only 30 teams out of more than 1,000 entrants nation wide to

be named a finalist.
"The entire Pike Central High School community should be extremely proud of these talented students and educators," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett. "Their hard
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★ PC design team recognized

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work and commitment to academics will serve as a best practice example for schools across the state looking to take a rigorous 21st century approach to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education."
Niehaus explained Pike Central's team was asked to design a low-cost shelter that can be used to house people after a disaster.
They designed a 10' x 5' cubicle with seven foot high walls made of a polymer that weighs less than 20 pounds. Two partners working with Pike Central are the Red Cross and Crane Naval Base. Niehaus said the Red Cross currently uses tents to house people following a disaster. We wanted something more permanent," said Niehaus.
He said they are utilizing wind energy and solar pow-

er systems and designing a water filtration system for the shelter.
"I am absolutely proud of these kids. It is amazing. Yesterday, I had someone from IUPUI (Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis) call me," said Niehaus. He said that person had talked to someone from the state school board meeting. IUPUI wants to come down for a visit next week.
Niehaus said it is great to see how innovative Pike Central students can be. "That (innovation) is what makes the world go round," said Niehaus.
He said it is also neat to see kids' parents come into the school and see what their kids are doing. "They see the things they are doing on CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) and they say, 'Wow, I didn't know my kid could do that.'"

He said Dr. Bennett may also visit Pike Central to see how they are implementing the STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education into the curriculum.
Niehaus said math teachers Mike MacMunn and Ryan Bowman both work with Project Lead The Way to implement this into other classes.
Students Jessica D'Esposito, CM Brown and Travis Wood represented Pike Central at the state school board meeting. A video clip of them at the meeting can be seen by going to the Indiana Department of Education website.