

CHS awarded international STEM certification

Carrollton High School has earned the prestigious AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) certification, becoming only the second high school in the state and 18th internationally to earn this designation, considered a mark of distinction and excellence offered to highly effective institutions that prioritize STEM education as a path to success.

"We are certainly proud of the effort put forth by the high school staff to earn this award," said Dr. Kent Edwards, superintendent of Carrollton City Schools. "The business community is demanding a workforce that is competent and prepared. A quality STEM education is a strong part of that preparedness. To be one of the first 18 schools in the world to earn the AdvancED STEM certification is a testament to our staff and our system. From the school board to the classroom, we are solely focused on our students and their

success," said Edwards.

"Mr. Stacy Lawler, Carrollton High School assistant principal and CTAE director, was a vital component in getting the synergy aligned at CHS. His enthusiasm and commitment were rewarded with this certification," Edwards added.

AdvancED STEM Certification is the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians and business leaders around the world. In earning this certification, Carrollton High School has demonstrated its commitment to preparing its students for their educational and career opportunities of the future by ensuring its students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their postsecondary pursuits and as workforce contributors in the 21st-century economy.

In order to earn



CHS STEM students test electrical circuits during a class.

this STEM Certification, Carrollton High School had to demonstrate adherence to the AdvancED STEM Standard as reflected by the school's performance across 11 rigorous STEM Indicators. The certification process provides a rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement process, supported by research-based



tools and resources. Achieving high scores across the indicators certify that students have been equipped and trained to be in-

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novative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines. Albertus commended the efforts of Stephanie Holloway, CHS library media specialist, for assisting Lawler in collecting the documentation needed for the STEM certification process.

"Mrs. Holloway did a phenomenal job of creating a platform to showcase our STEM programs," he said. "She produced a user-friendly website that is not only informative, but was key in allowing AdvancED to delve deeply into our program and philosophy.

"Infusing these disciplines into art, language and other coursework is a challenge, but our teachers have readily accepted it," he continued. "Earning this certification is a testament to our teachers and administrators embracing what is best to prepare our students for what lies after high school, albeit college or a work career."

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"Earning this certification is the result of a multi-year process. We have been very prescriptive in our approach to STEM," said Dr. Mark Albertus, CHS principal. "Many people think that STEM is simply a class. Our teachers have taken the ap-