



2023 International Conference Results

Minnesota Future Problem Solving Program (MN FPSP)

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Conference Recap: 9 Countries participating; 42 Affiliates; 1500 participants

Topic: Currency



IC 2023 Opening Flag Ceremony



"If you've ever been to IC (the International Conference) you know how overwhelming and amazing the Opening Flag Ceremony is as well as hard to get good photos. However, I believe the photo above gives you an idea as to how big and beautiful this is. I'll never forget the first IC that I participated at in 1995 as a coach. It brought tears to my eyes then and still does today." ~ Cheryl Whitesitt

On the left is our MN Flag Bearer, Daniel Jackson from Lester Prairie Schools who is coached virtually by TC Meng of Centennial FPS. Daniel proudly represented MN wearing a MN Wild Costume. On the right, Daniel is on his



way to the stage to display the flag. Students apply for this honor to serve. *Thank you, Daniel! We're proud of you!*

MN Community Problem Solving (CmPS) Team Earns Top Honors!

Shyla Gordon and Fatuma Hassan, took FIRST Place in the Senior Division.

But wait! There's more! Their work also brought home the most aspired for "Beyonder Award."

Shyla and Fatuma are from St. Cloud North Junior High and St. Cloud High School (respectively), and are coached by Karlyn Doyle and Tom Warnemunde.



Left: **Shyla Gordon**; Right: **Fatuma Hassan**

Their project is titled, "Who's on The Other Side?"

Project Description: According to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, there's been a 2,781.16% increase in cyber tips of suspected online crimes against children in Minnesota between 2010-2021. How might we minimize the risk of child grooming, so that children in Minnesota can safely use the internet in 2021 and beyond? "Who's on the Other Side?" gets the conversation started on this touchy subject through age-appropriate lessons developed by students, for students in grades 3-12 and adults too! Partnering with other student groups helps to spread the message and sustain efforts to keep personal safety at the forefront of students' minds when online.

CmPS is not for the "faint of heart." This two year project is ongoing as these young ladies work to assure sustainability. Their success in the goal is reflected in having earned the "Beyonder Award." Dr. E. Paul Torrance coined the word "Beyonder" to describe projects that "outdistance the others so far that they are not even on the same scale." Team or Individual CmPS students who have demonstrated an exceptional

depth, passion, and commitment in the project that goes above and beyond what would normally be expected of students are considered for the Beyonder Award. Evaluators may nominate a project they believe should be considered for the Beyonder Award for it to be compared with other nominated projects using the Beyonder Evaluation Matrix. The nomination of project(s) does not guarantee that a Beyonder Award will be given. Beyonder Characteristics include:

1. Pursued the Project with intensity
2. Extended *beyond the scope of ordinary attempts* to address the Area of Concern
3. Displayed an intense love for their work in implementing the Project
4. Demonstrated remarkable creativity
5. Displayed exceptional motivation to address/overcome obstacles
6. Demonstrated Project has Depth
 - ✓ Displayed notable delight in deep thinking
 - ✓ Demonstrated uncommon reflective thinking throughout the Project
 - ✓ Made a truly profound difference in their community
 - ✓ Showed exceptional concern for the sustainability of the project



Congratulations to Fatuma and Shyla! Your efforts are helping to change the world!

PRESENTATION OF ACTION PLAN FINALS

Advancing Teams – listed in numerical order

Brainerd Junior Division Team Makes Presentation Finals!

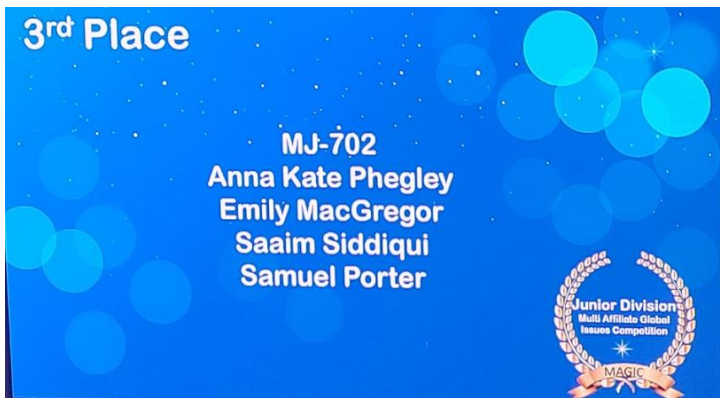


L-R: Sam Sundberg, Isaac Mattson, Justus Anderson, Norman Majka, Tucker Anderson, Samuel Porter

Junior

TJ-101 Australia
TJ-107 Connecticut
TJ-115 New Zealand
TJ-122 Virginia
TJ-129 North Carolina
TJ-134 Massachusetts
TJ-135 New Zealand
TJ-140 Illinois
TJ-145 Wisconsin
TJ-148 Minnesota
TJ-150 Nebraska

***Congratulations to our
Brainerd FPS students!
Coached by Marcy Byrns
This year, the top ten;
next year the top five!***



Samuel Porter's MAGIC Team takes 3rd Place in the Junior Division Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS) Competition!

Samuel is from Brainerd Forestview Elementary and is coached by Marcy Byrnes.

MAGIC stands for Multi-Affiliate Global Issues Competition. For this competition, students from multiple Affiliates are matched to create a team who meet for the first time at the start of the competition. These students introduce themselves, share their skills, read the Future Scene, and then work to apply the six-step problem solving process to create a plan of action. What a great experience for kids to practice a real life, impromptu, collaboration that often needs to happen in the workplace.

(Unfortunately, this year's IC Program did not put the names of students with their school or affiliate so at the time of this writing, we do not know where Emily, Anna Kate, nor Saaam hale from.)



Congratulations to Samuel and his MAGIC Team!

L-R: Emily MacGregor, Anna Kate Phegley, Samuel Porter, Saaam Siddiqui

Valleyfair MN FPSP Annual FUNdraiser

For every five people who volunteer at Valley Fair for a day, we'll raise \$1,000.00 for FPS! To learn more about this go to: <https://www.valleyfair.com/community/group-fundraising>

To sign up, click here: [Valley Fair FPS FUNdraiser Sign Up](#)

OR click on this link or copy and paste into your browser: <https://forms.gle/ToE15qVKAXYoHfdY8>

Other Students Representing Minnesota at IC

Middle Division: Centennial FPS



Centennial FPS is one of our true 21st Century programs. Since COVID, they have continued to meet virtually, growing by giving students the opportunity to participate from various school districts, private, public, and home school. This Middle Division team above includes from left to right: Lincoln Vang goes to Northdale Middle School; Connor Louks is from Centennial Middle School in Lino Lakes; Coach TC Meng; Danica and Taison Scofield from Anoka Schools, and Daniel Jackson from Lester Prairie Schools.

Daniel, as the team alternate, competed in the Individual Competition.

Congratulations on your IC successes!



Left photo, of course everyone needs a little time to play. There's nothing like a water park on a hot day!

And MORE Students Representing Minnesota at IC

Middle Division: Wayzata High School



This Middle Division Team from left to right:
Ally Hsieh, Camila Costea, Maria Allard, and Helena Smith are coached by Jon Honza.
Congratulations and thank you for representing Minnesota!



Many thanks to our parent chaperones!



One more Student Representing Minnesota at IC

Owen Byrnes is yet another example of one of our 21st Century FPSers. When Owen's FPS team mates in Brainerd went other directions, Owen's passion inspired him to contact me (Cheryl Whitesitt/Affiliate Director) to brainstorm "what to do." Coaches Karlyn Doyle and Tom Warnemunde in St. Cloud reported that they needed a fourth person for one of their teams. This was Owen's second year of being coached virtually. His Mother, Marcy, drives him to St. Cloud so he can compete in person with his team mates. However, if the weather would not allow for this, Owen and his team are always prepared to compete virtually.

Owen's team did not qualify for IC Competition BUT he qualified for the MAGIC Competition. Hence, so that he would have a team to prepare with, he joined Centennial FPS, coached by TC Meng. FPSers using technology to its fullest! But there's more! Owen co-coaches with his Mother's Junior

Division Team AND he has recently applied to serve as one of our Student Ambassadors! He'll be interviewing soon so I suspect that we'll be seeing a lot more of Owen!

*Thank you, Owen, for your persistent passion that keeps us focused on our future, not our past.
Your energy and ideas are a constant source of inspiration.*



The MN FPS Family grows! ~ by Cheryl Whitesitt

I'd like to introduce the Ashwin Family from Australia. Left to right in the photo to our left is Anay; his mother, Sushma; and his father, Ash. Last year during IC, I connected with this lovely family. One of the many opportunities about IC is the connections that often grow into lifelong friendships. Once we connected, we kept running into each other which allowed us to get to know each other better. During our visits, one of the things I shared was our Topic Academies. While Anay was not actually able to join us each time because we met during his school day, Sushma was able to participate. Also, I shared our recording of the events.

Anay competes as an Individual but also wanted to connect with students near his age so that he might be able to experience the Presentations and have a group to join in with for some of the side activities. As you can see by the photo on

page six, they were truly embraced as a part of our MN FPS Family. On the next page we have proof that you must have a buddy when going to Six Flags!



Michelle Li
Minnesota

Michelle has participated in FPS since fourth grade and now coaches younger students. She represented Minnesota FPS at eight consecutive International Conferences. She helped expand student engagement through writing for the student newsletter, hosting game nights for student participants, and enhancing social media capabilities. Michelle was a pivotal contributor in the development of a new component for the Minnesota FPS Program called Visual Arts.

Congratulations to “Creating the Future Scholarship” Recipient, Michelle Li!

The "Creating the Future" scholarship was established in 2010 in honor of Dr. E. Paul Torrance, creativity guru and founder of Future Problem Solving Program.

The scholarship recognizes a current FPS student who is graduating from secondary school. Applicants generally have many years of participation in competitive Future Problem Solving, often in more than one component. In addition, they have shown exceptional dedication to the program through actions that embody the skills of a creative problem solver and/or support the program in their geographic area.

Our graduating senior, Michelle, has been one of our MN FPSP Student Ambassadors for the past two years. She has gotten to be well known among our students as one of our hosts for the student Fun Nights. While Michelle

is off to college this fall, one thing Covid taught us is that we can easily stay connected. She will be very busy acclimating to yet another level of education rigor, but plans on staying in touch and staying involved in the Visual Arts Component as an Evaluator. Thank you, Michelle, for your leadership; past, present, and future!

Best Wishes to Michelle! We're so proud of you!

FPS Funny Money (FPS Bucks) Passed Around at IC

Why? For fun of course!
Why Should You Care? There are prizes at stake!
What Should You Be Looking For? See Below (colors vary)

How do you get the money? Participate in various FPSIC activities, CT Participants will also randomly distribute (Memento Exchange and other places they happen to be at), other Important FPS Personnel will also have them.

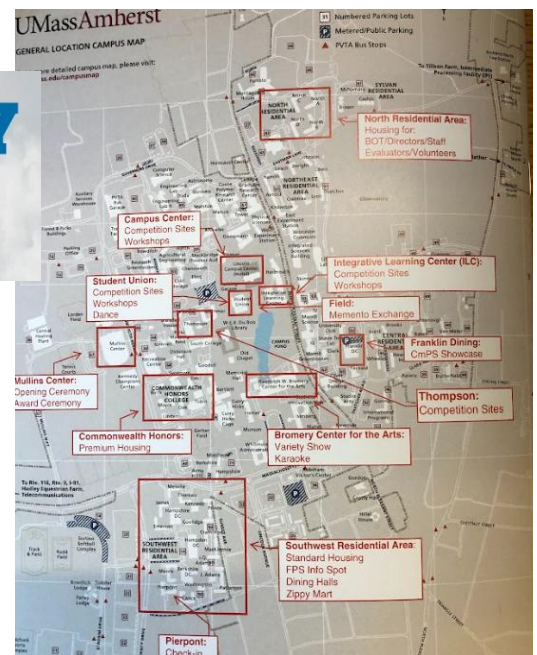
How are prizes earned? Two ways to get a prize.
One: You must get one bill of each denomination
Or
Two: You must get 999 Billion FPS Bucks

Where do you get your prize? Zippy Mart
Extra prize if you do both and are the first to identify all of the people on the bills (hint most are connected to CT program)

TOPIC
CURRENCY
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023
JUNE 7TH - 11TH
UMASS AMHERST

FPS

**EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE
TO CREATE A BETTER
TOMORROW THROUGH
CREATIVITY AND
PROBLEM SOLVING**



IC - A Bird's Eye View

