

BISHOP KELLY



HIGH SCHOOL

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For Immediate Release

Contact Info: Kelly Shockey, 208-375-6010, [kshockey@bk.org](mailto:kshockey@bk.org)

**BK NATIONAL CHAMPIONS IN JETS/AbilityOne  
NATIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN CHALLENGE!**

The BK Engineering Design Class travelled to Washington, DC from February 24-25 to compete as one of the five national finalists in the National Engineering Design Challenge sponsored by the JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society). The challenge was to research, design, and build a working prototype device to help people with disabilities succeed in the workplace. Teams submitted drawings and photos of their designs in a report detailing how they reached their design solution. 300 teams from 40 states registered for the Challenge. BK was selected as one of the 30 semifinalists from a field of 225 who submitted written reports. The design team then submitted a six minute video describing the prototype design in additional detail, and was selected as one of the five finalists invited to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Finals.

BK was awarded first place and a \$3000 prize for The Best Overall Design. In addition, the team received three additional awards: Best Presentation (sponsored by National Society for Precision Engineering), The Best Application of Rehabilitation Engineering Design Principles (sponsored by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America), and Best Application of Universal Design Principles (sponsored by Center of Assistive Technology and Environmental Access) .

BK's device, The PAWD (Personal Assistive Writing Device), was designed to help persons with Intention Tremors to be able to write freehand, a task not possible without some sort of assistive device. While the engineering design team was overseen by the teachers/coaches, the invention and engineering process was driven by the students. The team members were Dominic Chumich, Jerry Ding, Karl Schutz, Kate Franklin, Lauren Naughton, Nick Wendt, Sam Kosydar and Zi Yi Li. The team was coached by Dr. Guy Hudson and Dr. Larry Neznanski. The team would also like to express their gratitude to the Micron Foundation for financial support.