



On May 3, 2010, the Pocomoke Middle School MESA (Math, Engineering, Science, and Achievement) team traveled to the Kossiakoff Center at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, MD to compete in the state MESA championships. This competition allows teams of middle school students to compete in four events that present informational or physics/engineering challenges. I am pleased to say that Pocomoke Middle School placed first in three of the four categories and third in the fourth. This record of outstanding achievement earned Pocomoke Middle's MESA team the Maryland state MESA championship and a trip to the national championships in Denver, Colorado, where they will be competing in the Wind Energy Challenge. This challenge requires that students design and build a windmill capable of lifting the most weight in the shortest amount of time and pulling a vehicle a measured distance in the shortest amount of time. All this is to be done powered only from the wind generated from a standard household box fan. Some of the other competitions that the team earned first place in were Effective Communications (a speech and performance category) and Basswood Bridge. We are very proud of our students and this is the first time a team from Pocomoke Middle School has won this championship. This accomplishment demonstrates one of the many successes already achieved as a result of the after school STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) academies.

Chris Gooding , MESA Advisor