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CENTERVILLE Destination Imagination TO HOST 2022 Ohio DI Tournament



BY HARRY AND MICHELLE OXRIDER

Centerville Destination Imagination (DI) is proud to announce that it has been selected as the host of the 2022 Ohio DI Affiliate Tournament, to be held on Apr. 2, at Centerville High School. Harry and Michelle Oxrider, Centerville City Schools Destination Imagination district coordinators, said, "We are very excited about the opportunity to showcase our amazing community and incredible high school campus!"

Destination Imagination, Inc., is a global, volunteer led nonprofit whose mission is to teach students the creative process and help them gain the 21st century skills needed to succeed in the future workforce, with a focus on teamwork and problem solving. The organization creates STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) based challenges to



call on student skills and talents in many areas, including scientific understanding, theatrical performance, technical prowess, improvisation and structural engineering, in an entirely student led environment. Encouraging creativity and collaboration, the DI program inspires the next generation of innovators, leaders and creative problem solvers.

"Ohio based DI teams have spent months perfecting their solutions, and their presentations are bursting with distinctive creativity and innovation. Come watch as the best of the best gather in Centerville to compete for the title of state champion. The event is free and is open to the public; and visitors and media are encouraged to attend," said Vince Pachiano, president of Ohio Kids for Creativity.

To learn more and see how you can help support Centerville DI or help with the tournament, please visit www.centervilledi.com or www.ohdi.org, or email centervilledi2@gmail.com.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP Recognizes Benefits OF Credentialing Process

BY KATE TRANGENSTEIN



Professional development offers an individual the opportunity to not only hone their technical skill competency, but to take a broader look at their growth, including community involvement, education, goals and professional contributions. In the fire service, no organization does this better than the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and its credentialing process.

With 14 credentialed officers and six more in the process, Washington Township Fire Department (WTFD) has more credentialed staff than any other department in Ohio. It's an accomplishment that reflects the department's sustained dedication to excellence and professional development.

The designation program is voluntary and designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate excellence in seven measured components, including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competency. In addition all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

WTFD Chief Scott Kujawa teaches department members that the dedication to professional development required by the process signifies not only a commitment to fire and emergency services, but also to their community.

The designation program evaluates candidates using a comprehensive peer review model. "We all do this job without the want or need for recognition; however, having your career's work validated by peers is one of the highest acknowledgments and honors you can receive," said Battalion Chief Michael Guadagno, who recently received the Chief EMS Officer (CEMSO) designation, making him one of only 153 CEMSO designees worldwide.

Scott believes it is never too late to benefit from the designation process and encourages all members of the department to take the professional development opportunity offered though CPSE. An almost 20-year veteran of WTFD, Battalion Fire Chief Joel Holbrook says that pursuing the Chief Fire Officer designation is one way he tries to lead by example. "Washington Township has always been incredibly supportive with

training and professional development opportunities. It's too easy to say, 'I'm at the end of my career; I don't need to do that,' but it's never too late to better yourself. Once you decide you don't want to improve yourself, it's probably time to hang up your hat," said Joel.

The benefits of working through the credentialing process extend far beyond the designations that department members receive. Through the process formal and informal relationships have been developed with chief officers and line officers around the region and state, offering the opportunity for WTFD members to assist outside agencies with their strategic planning processes, provide mentorship to members both inside and outside the department related to fire service and work-life balance, and support regional members through the credentialing process, resulting in numerous new Fire Officers and Chief Fire Officers. The credentialing process is a professional development opportunity that not only benefits WTFD, but departments and townships throughout Ohio.