

2019 SOLAR DAY at J-Town High

The third annual Solar Day Challenge did not let anyone down on April 26, 2019. This event was a spectacular day despite early rain. In a joint venture, the UAW/Ford collaborates in the community with Jeffersontown High School in manufacturing with the Academies of Louisville. This is participation with Ford Next Generation Learning (NGL). The focus of this model is on Project Base Learning (BPL), which has students working on real life projects and real life situations. They work together in teams to resolve issues and complete their projects. This creates a pathway for the students to be transition ready for their futures. Becoming college and/or career ready is the goal for all the students for their success. This project starts at the beginning of the school year and after much work and preparation, the crescendo is the students' race solar powered go-carts on the track surrounding the football field. The precision is particular, so detailed that one team has actually had to machine their own gears at the school machine shop. Imagine going to school, learning, and building a go-cart to race for your project! BPL creates excitement in learning; it creates ownership, which means success. There is a lot of pride in these cars and all the hard work that has gone into this day of racing and fun. Hold on for a second....this is school, but I am learning. Something just does not seem right!

Together with the school administration and the students, planning is all year long. The partnership in the community with the UAW/Ford and the support of NGL plays a big part of this success as well. Students visit the gymnasium for the first part of the day to see other projects that classes have completed. There is also a car show that has everything from Ford Model A's to production units from both Louisville Assembly Plant and Kentucky Truck Plant. At the show, this year was a new Ford Ranger. Special thanks to Town & Country Ford Dealership for their support! In addition, a big hit was the University of Kentucky's Solar Team. This year they have a new solar car and the team from U of K enjoyed the day as much as the students enjoyed seeing their car and learning all the work that goes into the Solar Car program at U of K.



On the left; the agony of defeat. On the right, preparation for sweet victory! A great 2019 Solar Day Challenge

Special guest this year was a group of middle school students from Ramsey who were on hand not only to experience the day but also to see what the school has to offer. They learned about the different pathways the Academy offers at J-Town. Upon arrival they were greeted and brought into the gym and received a Ford T-shirt from Louisville Assembly Plant. They absolutely enjoyed their visit and their excitement for potentially attending J-Town High School was very encouraging.

Many people pour their heart and soul into this special day, but the school's Academy Coach Ashley Drager works diligently to make sure it succeeds. It is one thing to do your job, but Ashley does her job with compassion and it shows in her relationships with the students. It really creates a family atmosphere where you see students taking ownership and accepting responsibility. This gives confidence that the next generation will handle the future and handle it well.

As always, the retirees at UAW Local 862 come running to volunteer when needed in the community. No difference this year! Retiree Chairman Steve Stone takes part in the planning of the occasion and he is very instrumental in making the car show a huge success each year. Steve and his team are the first to get there and the last to leave. They set the precedence and show that hard work equals reaching the goal of a successful day. Local 862's Recreation Team shows no hesitation in support either. Jay Henry, recreation chair, was happy to bring out the trailer and grill for the day. It is a good feeling to know that so many people are supporting these students and doing what they can for their victories.

All this preparing and now comes time for the pre-race parade. All the car show participants paraded around the track, which was very nice and ultimately meant that it is almost time to race! The carts were in place and the races set. However, before any carts took off, safety is obviously the top priority. Safety just happens to be one of the projects J-Town is working on which is Job Safety Analysis for their school. Seatbelts and helmets are mandatory! A pre-task analysis process has not been officially implemented, but the team did a very good job creating a safe environment. An important note is the 'near miss' that occurred during one of the races. All the team's pit crews and drivers were to be behind the barricades for safety and this protected the students and faculty. One of the drivers lost control briefly and would have caused harm had this safety practice not been enforced. The learning is not just about the project but J-Town has implemented the culture of safety and its importance.

The brackets allowed fair competition and a pathway to the Championship for 2019. Mr. Smith's team was the heavy favorite going into the races since this team was the reigning champions from 2018. Mr. Mosley's team was ready, so they thought! But it was Mr. Stahl's team who were on point and had their "game faces" on. A lot of "smack talk" was going on but Mr. Stahl's team just kept their eyes on the prize. In the end, Team Stahl came out on top. A lot of smiles and another one in the books. Jeffersontown High and The Academies of Louisville did it again! Learning is fun, productive and prepares for our next generation.

Article by: UAW Rodney Janes



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

Welcome!

2019

Jeffersontown High School
Solar Day
Challenge!



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

Thank you:
Kentucky Truck Plant
Louisville Assembly Plant
Town & Country Ford





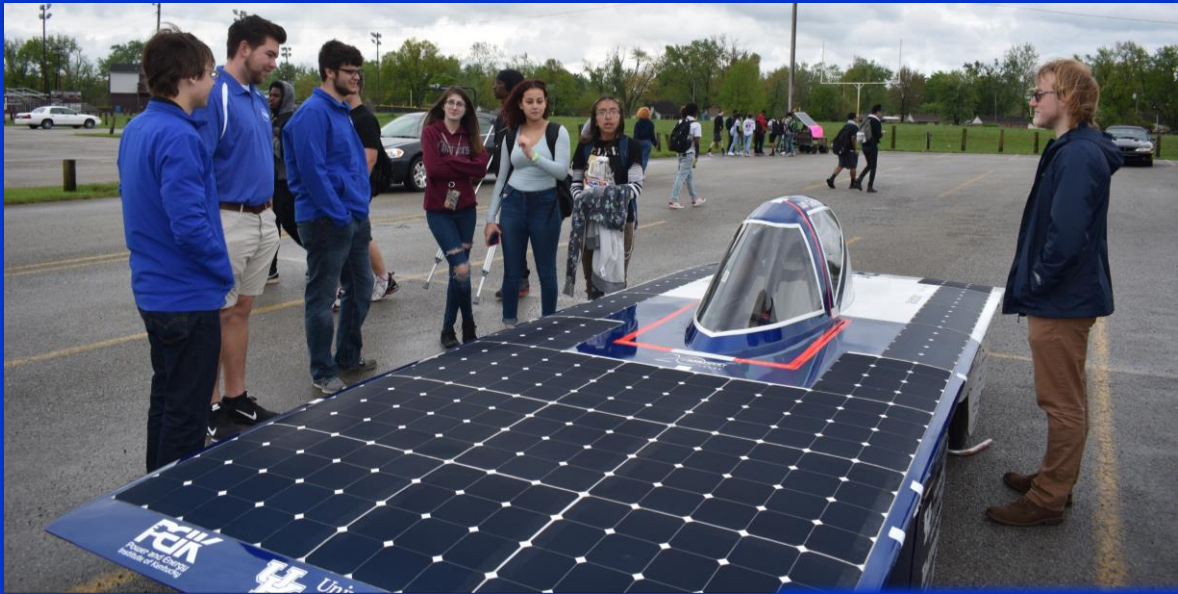
2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE



The Kentucky Truck Plant 1969 Ford Cabover Fire Engine is very popular with the students. Jeffersontown High School very much appreciates the availability and access to the Fire Engine.



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

The Car Show!





2010 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

The Pre-race Car Show Parade!





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

The Students & Support





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE



2018 J-Town Grad Emmanuel came out to support this year's solar challenge. Emmanuel was instrumental in 2018's success and came to enjoy 2019's challenge!



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE



The support within the community is tremendous. A local middle school brought approximately 40 students to the event. With the help of our great friends at Costco we were able to feed the car show participants and the middle schoolers. Not to mention Local 862 donating T-Shirts with the Louisville Assembly Plant logo on them for the students that were visiting.



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE



As always, we can count of the support of the UAW Local 862 Recreation Team! Thanks for coming out and cooking again this year team! Like the back of the trailer says: “We Build more than cars and trucks, We Build Communities!”





2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE



We are in it...to
WIN IT!

“Let’s get ready to RUMBLE!!!”



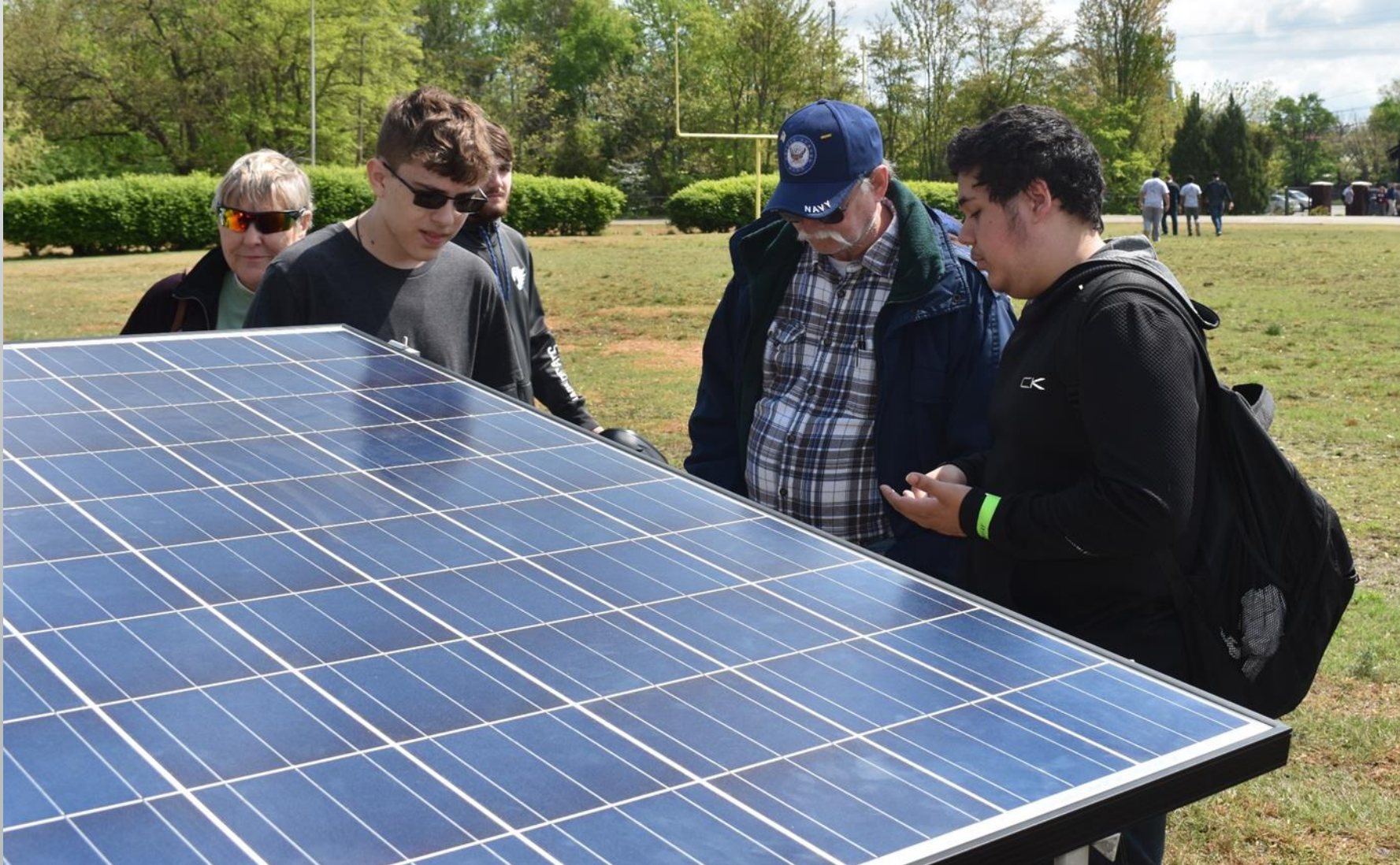


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Ron & Margaret Eberle are two of Local 862's Retirees that are ALWAYS volunteering in the community. Here the students are explain the conversion to solar power and the process of their transformation.

The UAW can always count on support from the retirees at Local 862!!



2019 SOLAR DAY CHALLENGE

2019 Solar Day
Champions!!

