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To: Dr. Karla Guseman

From: Mr. Chris McGuffey

Date: May 2, 2025

Subject: Board Recognition: Electronics & Robotics students restore Joliet Fire Department Robots

I'd like to recognize several students and instructors from the Joliet West and Joliet Central Electronics & Robotics programs for innovative partnership to restore two of Joliet Fire Department's robot ambassadors.

Through a service-based enrichment learning project, Career and Technical Education (CTE) students at both campuses applied advanced technical skills to restore two robotic community education tools "Freddie the Fire Truck" and "Andy the Ambulance" that had been out of commission since the early 2000s.

Under the guidance of instructors John Barber and Nicole Gubbins, students were tasked with diagnosing and repairing complex mechanical and electronic issues in these vintage robots. The restoration required critical thinking, teamwork, and real-world troubleshooting.

- **Joliet West:** Students in the Electronics and Robotics 1 & 2 classes brought "Freddie the Fire Truck" back to life. The project not only restored the robot's interactive capabilities (movement, lights, and voice) but also generated significant student engagement, with students creating a social media following to track the restoration progress.
- **Joliet Central:** Electronics students undertook the restoration of "Andy the Ambulance." Students engaged in deep problem-solving to repair the robot's voice box, eye mechanisms, and water-squirting system, identifying "sneaky" electrical faults and replacing microscopic fuses to return the unit to full functionality.

These restoration projects have provided the Joliet Fire Department with approximately \$20,000 worth of revitalized equipment. Both Freddie and Andy will now return to active duty, serving as interactive ambassadors for fire safety and emergency education at community parades, school visits, and public events. This collaboration exemplifies the value of authentic learning, where classroom skills are directly applied to benefit the community.

We would like to recognize the following students for their exceptional application of electronics skills and dedication to community service:

Student	Campus	Project
Nicholas Hicks	Joliet West High School	Freddie the Fire Truck
Jose Zamudio	Joliet West High School	Freddie the Fire Truck
Christian Torres	Joliet Central High School	Andy the Ambulance
Jeremy Martinez Zapot	Joliet Central High School	Andy the Ambulance
Javier Barrios	Joliet Central High School	Andy the Ambulance
Greg Rozman	Joliet Central High School	Andy the Ambulance

A big thank you to several adults who worked together to bring this authentic opportunity to our students.

John Barber	Joliet West Electronics & Robotics teacher
Nicole Gubbins	Joliet Central Electronics & Robotics teacher
Tim Chaplin	Joliet Fire Department Battalion Chief
Eric Clem	Joliet Community Paramedic

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