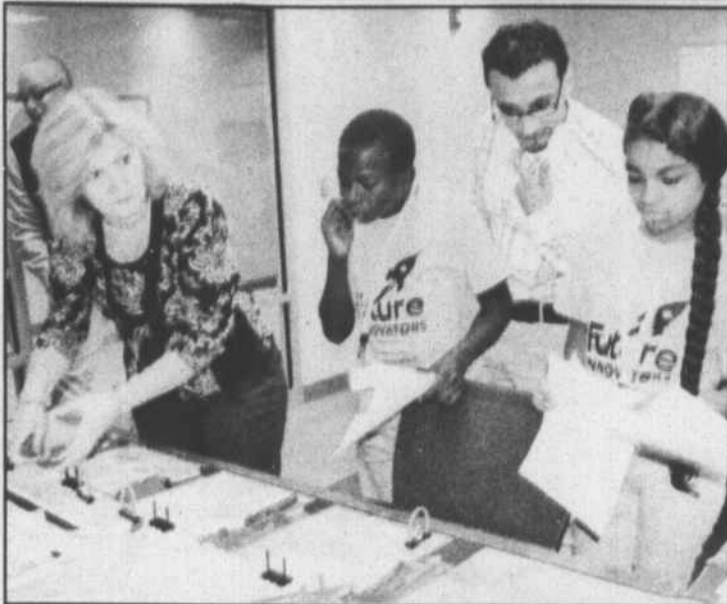


Above: Steve Susalka works with students Jada King, Chris Ledford and Terrell Harris.

Right: Wiley Science Teacher Betty Moore helps the pairs complete the robotics program she designed.



Mentors
from page B1

cars, from scratch," he said.

His mentor is Vishal Khanna, director of marketing and business development for Wake Forest Innovations, a division of the Quarter that turns science and technological advances into money-making ventures. Jayshawn's very first mentor, though, was his grandpa.

"He can fix almost anything," Jayshawn bragged.

As an icebreaker, the student/mentor pairs began their session by using bags of Legos to build something that they both like. Elijah Best and his mentor, Mohammad Albanna, constructed an artsy "S" because they both love science and STEAM.

Albanna, a Wake Forest Innovations product innovation and commercialization associate, said he was about Elijah's age when he knew he wanted to pursue a science-based career.

"I always had this questions of 'why' - why things did what they did," he said.

There was no Innovation Quarter or hands-on robotics lessons like the one the student/mentor pairs completed Friday to satiate his childhood curiosity.

"I would have loved to have something like this," Albanna said as he helped Elijah program a robotic vehicle to complete a series of tabletop tasks. "It would have been great."

Wake Forest Innovations Associate Director of Commercialization Steve Susalka developed the Future Innovators curriculum and is one of the mentors. He said helping to cultivate young minds and making community inroads are part of the mission of the Innovation Quarter, an ever-expanding biomedical science and information technology oasis that includes Wake Forest Biotech Place, Inmar and the newly-opened 525@Vine.

Recruiting mentors was a cinch, Susalka said. "Who wouldn't want to spend an hour doing this?" he said, gesturing to the excited robotics-rapt kids and their equally excited mentors.

Even if the students don't turn out to be the next Steve Jobs or Neil deGrasse Tyson, Wiley Physical Education teacher Lamar Wilkerson thinks Future Innovators will make them more confident and motivated in school and in life.

"That young lady



(From left) Laura Harrell, Joyce Kohfeldt, Executive Director Clyde Fitzgerald (for Volunteer of the Year Dave Frederickson); Georgia Jaynes, Cindy Ellis, Nutrition Services Coordinator Keren Ferris (for Volunteer of the Year Shannon Sandifer) and Alexander Arnn.

Food Bank honors volunteers

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

detail.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC held its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Highland Presbyterian Church on Sept. 16 to thank those whose work provides food and hope. The Triad Community Kitchen provided food.

More than 70 volunteers were recognized with certificates for donating at least 50 hours for the year. In addition, seven volunteers were given special recognition for exemplary service to the organization.

Laura Harrell was named the 2014 Board Volunteer of the Year. She has served on the executive committee and chaired the personnel committee of the Second Harvest board of directors, and was a lead organizer for a back pack program in southwestern Rockingham County.

Alexander Arnn, Cindy Ellis, Dave Frederickson, Georgia Jaynes, Joyce Kohfeldt and Shannon Sandifer each received a 2014 Volunteer of the Year award.

Arnn has been volunteering at the egg inspection station at Second Harvest Food Bank for more than two years as part of the US Airways "Do Crew." Ellis has been a volunteer for Empty Bowls for 13 years and has worked to promote community awareness of Second Harvest Food Bank in the school system. Frederickson has served in various departments with multiple staff members and is known for his reliability, adaptability and attention to

Jaynes has volunteered in the salvage program every other Tuesday since 2009, as well as volunteering at the annual Empty Bowls event. Kohfeldt, a retired special education teacher, helped Epiphany Lutheran Church launch a back pack program at Abraham Elementary School, which now distributes back packs to 72 children. Sandifer, a recent graduate of the Nutrition program at UNCG, has assisted with three Cooking Matters courses, donating more than 59 hours of her time to educating others in nutrition and healthy living.

Each Volunteer of the Year also received a special gift from Lazy Lizard Pottery in Lewisville.

"Our community, our Food Bank and all we serve are blessed by your compassionate service," Second Harvest Executive Director Clyde Fitzgerald told the volunteers.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC is the leading hunger-relief organization for an 18 county service area that includes Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Caswell, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Randolph, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin.

It works in partnership with more than 400 local food assistance programs that include food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters and special feeding programs for children and seniors.



Wiley teachers Lamar Wilkerson and Susan Dayville-Zuck take in the scene.

there," he said pointing to one of the Future Innovators, "I've never seen her smile like that."

Pointing to another

student, he said, "I have never heard him speak out the way he just did ... This is awesome. It's really going to help these kids."

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