Department of Education

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# **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MEMO NO. 199-22**

**DATE:** June 14, 2022

**TO:** CTE Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. David S. Eshelman, Director

 Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

## SUBJECT: Announcing the Global Plant the Moon Challenge Winners from Virginia

The [Plant the Moon Challenge](https://plantthemoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Academies-of-Loudoun-A1.pdf) (PTMC), offered by the Institute of Competition Sciences, is a global science experiment, learning activity, and inspirational project-based-learning challenge to see who can grow the best crops using lunar regolith simulant. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in collaboration with NASA, supported the opportunity for Virginia teachers and their students to participate in the PTMC.

Teachers received a PTMC activity kit that included lunar regolith simulant, a project guide, and a pH meter. Using the project guide, student teams defined their experimental parameters, and designed and conducted an experiment to grow vegetable plants in the lunar regolith simulant. The goal was to provide experimental data to assist researchers expand space exploration capabilities by ensuring nutritious crops could be successfully cultivated in lunar soil for future missions to the Moon.

All participants with completed projects were invited to showcase their work at a virtual symposium with NASA scientists, program executives, and other dignitaries, where the Best in Show awards were presented to teams with the best experiments in a variety of categories.

The VDOE would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all Virginia school divisions that participated in the PTMC, and well-deserved congratulations to the winning teams and their teacher advisors, placing Best in Show in the following categories:

**Growth:**

[Forest Middle School](https://plantthemoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Forest-Middle-School-Cavaliers-1.pdf) – Bedford County Public Schools

Advisor: Cindy Watson

Team: Forest Cavaliers (9317)

**Experimental Design**:

[Chesterfield Career and Technical Center](https://plantthemoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CTC-Biotech.pdf) – Chesterfield County Public Schools

Advisor: Colleen Coleman

Team: CTC Biotech (9274)

**Evaluation of Results**:

[Academies of Loudoun](https://plantthemoon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Academies-of-Loudoun-A1.pdf) – Loudoun County Public Schools

Advisor: Amy Goodyear

Team: Lean Green Demoons (9287)

If you have questions, please contact LaVeta Nutter, Specialist, Agricultural Education and Related Clusters, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at cte@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3119.

DSE/aar