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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 24, 2018

(Release #2017/18 – 265)

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Thomson Middle School Awarded \$5,000 Flint Grant



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Thomson Middle School received a \$5,000 grant from the Flint Energies Foundation on May 10. The funds will assist with the cost for the students to travel to compete in the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Jr. competition.

Thomson Middle has the first and only NSBE Jr. Club in the Middle Georgia area. The school's chapter is sponsored by The Links of Fort Valley and Fort Valley State University NSBE Club.

Pictured during the presentation are:
(from left, first row) – Thomson Middle

NSBE members, Taylor Walker, Christian Pitt, Sydney Grubb, Genesis Griffin, Morgan Grubb, Jordan Stephens and Joseph Stephens; (2nd row) - The Links of Fort Valley Tiena Fletcher and Dr. Josephine Davis; Flint Energies Foundation members Eloise Doty, Jasmine Allen, and Joanne Hamlin; The Links of Fort Valley President, Wilhemenia Sibley; Thomson NSBE sponsors Terra McMillan and Travis Phelps; (back row) Flint Foundation members John Luppino, Betty Chase, Kathy Waites, Traci Kemp, Charles Harrison and Stephanie Harvill.

Thomson NSBE members not pictured are: Devan Robinson, Isabella Sayers, Alexa Hernandez, Keilah Miles and Mikayla Gammage.

The 2018 National Society of Black Engineers Convention was held March 21-25 in Pittsburg. Thomson's students competed in two competitions: Math Counts and FIRST Lego League. The students placed in the top 10 in the Math Counts competition. The youth also had the opportunity to conduct interviews with top technology companies including Google, Snapchat, Pinterest, and Apple.

The annual convention showcases black students and professionals who have a passion for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and are high achievers in these fields. NSBE is one of the largest student-governed organizations in the U.S. Its mission is “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black Engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally and positively impact the community.”

Flint Energies grants are funded through Operation Round Up®, a way for members to voluntarily “round up” their bill to the nearest dollar. Members contribute nearly \$200,000 a year to the Flint Energies Foundation, which supports worthy causes in 17 counties.

Thomson Middle is located at 301 Thomson Street in Centerville. For more information, please contact Principal Dr. Walter Stephens at walter.stephens@hcbe.net.

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