Top 3 teams face off in RCC reality TV final

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ASHEBORO — Reality Redesigned is in full swing as the three top teams face-off on a reality TV show being filmed this week at Randolph Community College (RCC).

The teams were selected from a pool of more than 350 individuals that was narrowed down to 50 students and mentors on 17 teams that were judged online during the month of March.

The competition resulted from a collaboration that began last fall between Edge Factor and RCC in an effort to connect students with industry and educational mentors through challenges to design solutions for unique scenarios.

It is one of several programs blossoming in Randolph County intended to close the industry’s interest gap, or the disconnect between what the public perceives as manufacturing and...
The three teams selected for this week’s final challenge include Trinity High School’s The Mooks and Uwharrie Charter Academy’s Big Boiz and Team Warriors.

The teams filmed introductions on Monday, after which they were given a real-world challenge, a toolbox of resources and 84 hours to dream, design and build. The teams will present their solutions at 10 a.m. on Friday on the Asheboro campus of RCC in front of an audience of their peers and the judges.

To get to this point, each team had to solve a problem and present the solution — including details of the invention the team engineered to solve the problem — online.

Members of The Mooks are Parker Cabiness, Jacob Delzell, Zac Kearns, Isaac Kogure, Siam Shabbir, John Wagner and Chase Wooley. The team created the stainless steel-less mug. Their submission included a base that secured a specially designed mug under lock and key to keep it from being stolen.

Team members explained that Reality Redesigned has “given us experience with real-world problem-solving. It’s also a great chance to experience some kinds of engineering.” Members of Big Boiz are Hayden DelGrande, Carson Duggins, Preston Long, Mason Rich, Edward Slafky and Anuragh Sriram. The team created the Puffee, which was created to benefit people who have lost or don’t have use of their arms. The solution was specifically designed to assist with the task of drinking.

“It was great fun to integrate STEM learning into finding a solution to a real-life problem,” Sriram said. “We also had to estimate the cost and the number of hours required to build the mechanism. We created a back story for this mechanism and explained its use in the real world.”

The winning team will be announced during Reality Redesigned’s Party with the Presidents, a networking extravaganza planned for Friday afternoon at RCC. The video from this week’s competition will be edited into a show that will air on edufactor. Edge Factor is also in discussions with a major broadcasting company, which is considering the possibility of airing Reality Redesigned on network television.