

News Release: Vote Now To Help PGCPs Teacher Win \$100k to Keep Open Robotics Program for Students

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Prince George's County Public Schools' Virginia Fulton – teacher at Howard B. Owens Science Center – is a finalist for the Farmers Insurance Thank A Million Teachers \$100,000 Dream Big Challenge. Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) needs your vote to take her from finalist to winner.

Fulton is a Science Outreach teacher at Howard B. Owens, and teaches programs ranging from engineering to life sciences to students in prekindergarten through grade 8. Fulton is also the director of the summer robotics program hosted by Howard B. Owens known as the Maryland Summer Center for Space Engineering: Robotics (MSCSER).

Now in its third year of operation, MSCSER provides rising 7th through 9th grade students the opportunity to design, engineer, and program robots to complete various challenges and missions in the search for lunar ice. Throughout the experience, participants also discover the history and future of space exploration through field experiences to NASA Goddard Space Center and the Air and Space Museum and discussions with engineers and astronauts.

As current grant-funded opportunities are depleting, the MSCSER program is at risk for closure. Seeking to save the program, Fulton submitted a proposal to Farmers Insurance Thank A Million Teachers \$100,000 Dream Big Challenge, with support from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), students, faculty and professional colleagues.

Fulton's proposal seeks to extend the length of MSCSER and include follow-up sessions with increasingly rigorous robotic competitions to give underprivileged but highly-abled students the opportunities to deepen their education and experience in this field. At the conclusion of the program, students will be able to take equipment with them to continue robotics challenges at home. Through the grant, MSCSER will also be able to offer more scholarship opportunities to prospective students.

"This program has been a life-changing experience for our students," said Fulton. "We would truly be saddened to not be able to provide them with this great opportunity, but unfortunately, it does require funding to maintain the program."

You can vote for Virginia Fulton's proposal at www.thankamillionteachers.com. Voting begins Wednesday, October 1. You must be 18 years of age or older to vote. Anyone can vote once a day on as many proposals as you wish, but you can only vote on the same proposal one time during a 24-hour period. Voting will continue until 11:59 p.m. on November 30. Winning teachers will be announced during the first week of December.

To cast your vote in support of Virginia Fulton, click [here](#). You can vote for Virginia Fulton's proposal located in "Zone: Eastern" on the voting page.

When voting you must submit your email address and verify that you are over 18 years of age. You will also be required to verify your email address.

Important: In order for your vote to count, you must check your email and verify your vote. PGCPS encourages you to vote daily to support our teacher and this program.

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.