2013 Ability One Design Challenge

Making a difference is something that not enough in the world care to do. It can be a task that only affects a few or it can be one that affects many. The students who participated in the Ability One Design Challenge only had one goal and that was to better the lives of people with intellectual disabilities.

The purpose of the Design Challenge was for high school students to work together as teams within their school and try to create a project that would enhance the speed and productivity of the workforce for people with disabilities. NISH is a national nonprofit organization that is responsible for creating types of employment for people with intellectual disabilities. They are a corporation that sponsors the Ability One Design Challenge.

The list of a 100 participating schools had been narrowed down to just 5. What makes it most fascinating is that 2 of the 5 teams both came from Poolesville High School and also worked on their individual projects within the Scott Key Center, in Frederick Md. These 5 teams all had their eyes on the prize money that would be awarded to their school. First prize was 5,000 dollars, 2nd prize was 3,000 dollars and 3rd prize was 1,000 dollars.

One of the 2 teams from Poolesville came up with a device to make it easier for cleaning rain barrels. The cradle acts an easier way to maneuver the device in order to wipe down every part of it. Instead of manually moving around to clean it, the barrel will rotate as you spin the device. Also the cradle can be placed more at your eye level as opposed to having it set on the floor. It can be placed on a table or anything, making it easier and not so hard on your back as you would bend down.

The second team from Poolesville came up with a device making it easier to put tea packets into a box. The objective was to insert a device inside the box that would separate the different colored packets from one another keeping it more organized looking.

The media saw this event as an opportunity to show society individuals who were involved in this stellar act of community service, along with the types of life changing inventions they created.