

## College of Technology and Computer Science

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## Bertie-Chowan Physics Club Claims State and National Titles in JETS Competition held at East Carolina University

GREENVILLE (6/5/2009) – One of the teams to compete at the Junior Engineering Technology Society (JETS) competition held at East Carolina University in February 2009 went on to claim state and national titles.

The Bertie-Chowan Physics Club, one of six student-teams from eastern North Carolina high schools to participate in the event, took first place in its division at the state and national level.

The club ranked first at the ECU regional competition. Other schools represented at the ECU event included Richlands High School, Washington High School and Greene Central High School.

The JETS contest provides students in grades 9 - 12 with the opportunity to solve engineering problems in a competition against other teams nationwide. A total of 655 schools and groups in the United States and six international schools competed this year. For the 393 teams that advanced to the national finals, each team was evaluated in one of eight divisions and classified as either varsity or junior varsity.

"I am very proud of the work that this team dedicated to preparing for the competitions," said Phil Lunsford, an ECU faculty member in the Department of Technology Systems and the coach for the Bertie-Chowan Physics Club team. "It is encouraging to see the level of commitment and skill that each of the team members has shown"

This was the first time ECU served as a host site for the JETS competition. ECU provided faculty support and assistance from multiple departments, including Technology Systems and Engineering.

"This is a labor of love for us as professors," said David Batts, an ECU faculty member from the Department of Technology Systems and JETS coordinator for the ECU site. "We get the chance to see young men and women with a passion for understanding real world math and science application and with the hope that we can encourage them to stay in this field of study and open amazing doors of opportunity."

ECU expects to host the event again in February 2010. For more information about JETS, please visit <a href="https://www.jets.org">www.jets.org</a>. If you would like further information about the event held at East Carolina University, please contact Dr. David Batts at (252) 328-9673.