

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

May 9, 2023

Contact: Kevin Lyons

815.337.3071



High school graphics students partner with Warp Corps

Woodstock and Woodstock North high school graphics arts students had a chance to market their talents and learn how those skills can benefit the community.

Sandra Brainard and Bill Weber, graphics arts teachers at WHS and WNHS, respectively, recently partnered with Rob Mutert, executive director of Warp Corps on a contest asking students to create logos for the nonprofit agency to use for apparel and merchandise sold to fund its programs.

Mutert said the Warp Corps Board of Directors decided to donate \$500 to the design contest winners to teach them that their talents can lead to a career.

Two students: WHS sophomore Jared Smart and WNHS junior Joseph Dulleck, were awarded \$250 each for rights to their artwork and two others were given an opportunity to sell theirs for \$75.

Mutert said he wanted to put the students' artistic skills to use and give them some valuable experience in the process.

"Woodstock has so much amazing history, and our vision for this was simple: Challenge the students to help us with designs for our retail sales here on the Square," he said.

Warp Corps, 114 N. Benton Street, raises awareness about mental illness, substance abuse and homelessness by focusing on creative expression through music, art and adventure sports.

Weber said he loved that his students had a chance to design for the real world and experience the healthy pressure of a competitive environment.

"They'll all see the winning design around town and remember their part in making that happen — it will stay with them," Weber said. "Warp Corps gave them the opportunity to think through design and brand identity for an extremely worthwhile cause. It was a great experience."

"Prevention through Engagement is our mission at Warp Corps, and this is a great example of our youth-based programs in action," Mutert said. "We offer internships for high school students and hope to create a lot more killer designs moving forward with them."

Brainard said she was impressed with designs created by students from both high schools. "This project has created a bridge between the classroom and the Woodstock community. When students are tasked to produce a project for a community member as opposed to a random assignment, they tend to put more time and effort into it."