

THE AREA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1865

# The Progress-Index

Petersburg, VA | December 10, 2018



The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Central Virginia Post President Michael Sly, center, operates the "Ella Vader" with Appomattox Regional Governor's School Robotics Team (ART) captains, Bradley Harker and Mina Ansari. The ARGs Robotics Team hosted the demonstration at the Petersburg school on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018, in order to display their work for representatives of SAME, one of their major sponsors. [JaCoray Coleman/progress-index.com]

## By JaCoray Coleman, P-I Intern

Appomattox Regional team shows off its technological skills as it preps for future competition

PETERSBURG — It was a showcase for ART at the Appomattox Regional Governor's School. Last week, ART — ARGs the Robotic Team — held a robotics demonstration at the West Washington Street school for one of their key sponsors, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME). The team also is preparing to compete in next year's FIRST Robotics Competition.

Since its re-establishment in 2015, ART has competed in the FIRST World Championships twice, winning the Rookie All-Star Award its first year back. As a result of the victory in the 2016 FIRST competition in Hampton Roads, the team competed in the world championship its second and fourth year in operation. The team went to the world championship again this year, placing 36th out of 60 teams.

ART members also use their talents to contribute to the community in their spare time, working with younger students and teaching STEM concepts, demonstrating their robots at different libraries throughout Virginia, and even working virtually with students in Armenia.

SAME's Central Virginia Post was forthright about their partnership with ART, emphasizing the gratification they receive by "focusing on promoting and donating time to STEM activities in local Petersburg and Richmond areas," said Jessie Atkinson, director of STEM and chief human resource officer with Summit Information Solutions.

At last week's demonstration team members showcased a robot they named "Ella Vader," which is a device that moves back and forth, raises over 6 feet, and can lift and drop boxes. They also demonstrated the "PR Chair," which is a chair that is able to move back and forth via remote control. ART even allowed some of the spectators and SAME members to operate the machines.

<https://www.progress-index.com/news/20181210/robotics-for-arts-sake>