

Electrifying Educational Event Held At University Of Scranton

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SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY (WBRE/WYOU) - Educators at one local university are hoping to generate more interest in physics and engineering. They are hoping an annual event was so electrifying that it encourages more students to pursue those fields.

An electrical transformer known as a Tesla coil wowed these high school students, showing them what it would look like if they could harness the power of a lightning bolt. The display may look familiar if you know the film "Back to the Future".

The science in the movie is the theme behind this year's Kane competition of high school physics and engineering students.

More than two hundred students from 15 area high schools tried to beat the clock and each other to figure out just how wide a wire needed to be in order for lightning to pass through it. They also had to build a flux capacitor, a key component of the DeLorean Time Machine in Back to the Future.

The annual event at the University of Scranton which includes other competitions and a written test is an attempt by the university to get more teenagers interested in physics and engineering.