**PHS Students Recognized for New Invention to Help Disabled Persons**

Three Poolesville High School students designed and created an invention that is making a difference in the community.

For the national [Ability I Design Challenge](http://www.instituteforempowerment.org/design-challenge), the high school juniors, Alice Huang, Marianne Zhao, and Roberta Lock, invented an apparatus that helps newspaper employees who have special needs.

They came up with the idea for their newspaper-packaging device in their Research and Design class. The device helps disabled employees who work for the Gazette News Network to insert newspapers into plastic delivery bags.

The Design Challenge encourages students to develop assistive technologies that empower people with disabilities to overcome barriers to employment. Each team worked with a nonprofit organization to complete the challenge. The trio was named finalists in the challenge and will present their invention at the national conference this March. The challenge was to design a system that would improve productivity in the workplace.

**JPMS Teacher a Panelist at Prestigious Education Forum**

On February 8, Krista Vega, a special education teacher at John Poole Middle School, participated as a panelist in the release of a study that evaluates parent and teacher support for timely, actionable assessments that monitor individual student performance.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) and Grunwald Associates LLC produced the study. NWEA is a not-for-profit group dedicated to helping kids live their dreams. The study, entitled “For Every Child, Multiple Measures: What Parents and Educators Want From K-12 Assessments,” gauges the assessment needs of parents, teachers, and district administrators—those with the most practical and personal experience with the day-to-day impact of assessments and accountability. The study comes at a pivotal time as policymakers are considering a new blueprint for education improvement and significant education reform initiatives are currently underway.

As part of the presenting team, she had the opportunity, while in Washington, to share the study findings with the education policy members in the Senate and House of Representatives.

You can download a copy of the study and a video featuring Mrs. Vega at www.nwea.org/every-childmultiple-measures.