

February 28, 2007

Letter of Support for Mainland High School ISTF Project

Over the past two months, I have been communicating with a group of students and their advisors at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach, Florida, on a project for the Internet Science and Technology Fair. Over the course of the project, I observed the students questions becoming more informed, more insightful, and more practical. I have the impression that they definitely did their homework and applied a great deal of initiative to carry out background research and formulate solutions. At this point I believe they have acquired a good working knowledge of the technologies they propose to employ.

The group has identified an important problem: reducing glare through automotive windshields, and has proposed some novel and technically plausible design solutions. The idea of incorporating properly designed micro- or nanostructures into the windshield surface could certainly be effective at reducing glare from a variety of sources. The group showed a lot of creativity and persistence in formulating their solutions. They asked some very interesting questions, some of which are viable academic research problems. Overall, I am very impressed with this team's efforts, and I believe they have exceeded the goals of the ISTF by a wide margin.

Sincerely yours,

David C. Dobson