Students unveil apps

Young minds show some great promise

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PLEASANTVILLE — It wasn’t enough for the Mamaroneck Tigers that the team placed in three out of four categories in a competition between local high school and college students who developed mobile apps for Alzheimer’s treatment.

The team worked for two months to develop a calendar app for patients and caregivers, in which a flashcard system is used by caregivers to help patients identify places and people’s faces.

Rhea Dedhia, a junior from Pelham Memorial High School, who joined the team with four Mamaroneck students, said the work didn’t end Friday when the winners were announced for the competition, called the Westchester Smart Mobile App Development.

“We may have to work on the functionality,” Rhea said.

The Tigers were one of 27 teams that presented their app to a panel of judges Friday at Pace University and were judged on creativity, functionality, usability and the benefit to Alzheimer’s caregivers.

The grand prize winners were a team called ASSIST from Yorktown Heights, made up of siblings Mark and Lindsay Aldrich, who took cash and other prizes and will get the opportunity to pitch their app next month to a panel of industry experts at a health tech conference.

The bowl was sponsored by Westchester County, Pace’s Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems and the David and Minnie Berk Foundations. County Executive Rob Astorino said the competition was investing in the future of the county as a capital of innovation and technology. He said one of the participants could be the next Mark Zuckerberg, referring to one of the co-founders of Facebook.

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Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino interviews students and coaches at the Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl on Friday.