

STUDENTS SOLVING FOR TOMORROW

• PROJECT EARNS 8TH GRADE CLASS NATIONAL FINALIST SPOT

Vermillion Eighth Grade Science students under the guidance of their teacher, Natasha Gault, were named as the South Dakota winner and a National Finalist in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.

The class's project on Asian Carp was chosen for its innovative approach to advancing interest in STEM and making an impact in the community. The STEM research and experiences were summarized into a three minute video submission.

Eighth Grade students at Vermillion Middle School submitted the Asian Carp topic as a result of their passionate concern for the Missouri National Recreational River.

The flying fish invasion of Asian Carp into the Missouri National Recreational River is an environmental threat to the historically and environmentally significant waterway. Asian Carp are inundating and threatening the Missouri National Recreational River ecosystem.

The invasion of Asian Carp into the Missouri River required a scientific investigation to understand the cause and determine potential solutions.

Students became informed about this local environmental

issue through expert education, innovative experiences, and data analysis with the following: The South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, Gavin's Point National Fish Hatchery and South Dakota State University.

The class developed a technological platform for educating our community regarding the threat, prevention and control of the invasive species in the Missouri River waterway.

Students advocated for Missouri River protection from Asian Carp by presenting the educational information and their proposed solution to local governmental/interest groups.

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national competition allowed the Eighth Grade students to conduct STEM research on Asian Carp outside of

the traditional classroom and resulted in the students earning a \$35,000 technology package for the Vermillion School District.

A group of students and a teacher were one of 12 groups from across the nation to give a competitive presentation at Houston, Texas. All expenses for the students and supervisors for the trip were covered by Samsung.

