

Wearable Technology Dresses Win York High School Student Fashion Design Gold and Trip to Nationals

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- A collection of dresses that transform from long to short has earned York Community High School student Ella DiGregorio a Gold Medal in Fashion Design and a trip to the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) national competition in San Antonio, Texas.

"[Transforming Beauty](#)," a collection of dresses that transform from long to short with the push of a button, has earned York Community High School student Gabriella (Ella) DiGregorio a Gold Medal in Fashion Design at the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference in Springfield, Illinois and a trip to the FCCLA national competition in San Antonio, Texas in July.



Ella DiGregorio entered the fashion design category of FCCLA's Students Taking Action with Recognition (STARS) competition and was required to develop a clothing label, research the intended audience, design the label's first 6-piece collection and construct one collection sample using an original flat pattern designed by the participant.

"This collection was inspired by the hidden beauty that is found in the inner workings of mechanical objects," DiGregorio said. "The idea of a skirt that could transform first came to me as I watched a room transform when the automatic blinds drew up. I wanted to use the same idea for my line of dresses which would have the skirt of the dress transform from long to short."

The Transforming Beauty [wearable technology](#) collection was designed to market to young women from 18 to 30, including prom-goers and bridesmaids. The collection features six individual dress designs in silk chiffon. The overall look is simple, clean, elegant and a bit edgy.

DiGregorio, who [designs costumes](#) for the York Community High School Theatre Department

and hopes to study costume design in college, says this is the largest project she has ever done on her own. "I ran into a couple of challenges that threw me in a different direction than I had planned but overall the project went really well. Because of time constraints, I wasn't able to have the dress mechanics be controlled with my phone rather than pressing a button. However, this is something I'll be working on before the Nationals!"

The Gold Medal awarded at the April 11 State Championship has ensured a trip to the San Antonio Nationals in July. "I am really proud to be going to Nationals for my school, especially because I'm the first in the fashion design category to place for state. I know that my teachers were excited for me to compete with such a different dress so I'm really happy that I brought back this result!"

Ella's mom, Stacy DiGregorio says, "I love seeing Ella's ideas come to fruition. I thrilled about her getting to complete at the national level... we are so proud of her! Sewing and costume design is her passion. I certainly didn't know what I wanted to do at this age and it's wonderful to see her have the chance to follow her dreams."

ABOUT GABRIELLA DIGREGORIO

Gabriella (Ella) DiGregorio has been sewing since she was a young girl and creating costumes for school plays since she was in the 7th grade.

Ella is currently a junior at York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois and is looking forward to studying costume design in college, and having a career in that field when she graduates.

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