

Pilgrim students show off new program at State of Education Address

T.E.A.M. Studio 107 combines elements of English, video production and music

A program that is on its way to becoming a Pathway program at Pilgrim High School was given the opportunity to show off its wares at the 2017 Rhode Island State of Education Address last week.

T.E.A.M. (Technology, English, Audio and Music) Studio 107 is a collaborative teaching program for 12th grade students which combines elements of English, the arts, and technology into its course curriculum. The coursework is overseen by two English teachers – Richard Denningham and Brian Callahan – and Chris Pratt and Andrea Place, who teach audio and video technology, respectively.

The idea is to take lessons learned in English classes and translate them into creative audio and video projects. Projects have included short screenplays made into movies, interviews with administrators played during lunch periods, and adapting the rhythms of Shakespearian pentameter into projects.

Although still in its first year, the program has proven popular, with students beginning to sign up for the second year of the program.

“We think this is important because the learners of today are going to have to learn how to use media no matter what path they choose,” Ms. Place said. “Just the fact that they have it on their phones and with them all the time makes this worthwhile.”

Worthwhile enough that the T.E.A.M. Studio 107 program was chosen as one of ten from around the state to show off their projects at the State of Education Address. Four students – two seniors currently participating and two juniors chosen to participate next year – presented projects and answered questions about the program.

“It was great because they really did it all,” Mr. Pratt said. “They were the ones out front and they were the ones talking about this.”

Although just wrapping up its first year, the team at Pilgrim is considering the T.E.A.M. in Studio 107 a success and the expectation is it will need to expand both its enrollment and space.

“We hope to put in an editing suite sometime this summer,” Ms. Place said. “There is a lot of interest in what we are doing and we anticipate the program will continue to grow.”

