

# DOING GREAT THINGS AT THE 2019 VAPT CONFERENCE

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) is the premier organization in Virginia dedicated to promoting safety, professionalism, and excellence within the pupil transportation industry.



Each year, VAPT hosts an annual conference designed to educate its members on the latest in Pupil Transportation. As part of the conference, VAPT holds the Virginia's Best School Bus Technician Skills Competition. Participants of the competition included 24 mechanics from across the state of Virginia competing to earn the title of Virginia's Best Technician. This year, **Greg Elrod, Mechanic II (upper left middle)**, and **Eric Carr, Mechanic II (upper right)** participated in the tenth statewide competition held on June 17th, 2019 at the Sonny Merryman shop in Evington, VA.

The competition consisted of a written exam and a hands-on test. Each contestant had to complete a 50-question written test as well as a hands-on diagnostic simulation.

Out of 23 mechanics, Greg took 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall and Eric took 10<sup>th</sup> place overall. Congratulations! Way to make Loudoun County Public Schools and the Loudoun County Transportation Division proud. Greg will also be headed to the annual National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) Conference in November representing LCPS and Virginia.



## CREATING AND WINNING

The VAPT conference also included a poster contest. Contestants were asked to create a poster design using the theme: Can't Touch This-The Danger Zone! The drawings must be original and include a correct safety concept. They should include a positive approach and demonstrate only proper school bus safety behavior.

Two students from River Bend Middle School took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Division #3 which included grades 6-8. **Emily Quiroga** is an 8th grader and took 1st place and **Daliah Minkara** is also an 8th grader and took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Excellent job and Congratulations!

