Downers Grove students compete in STEM Challenge Showcase

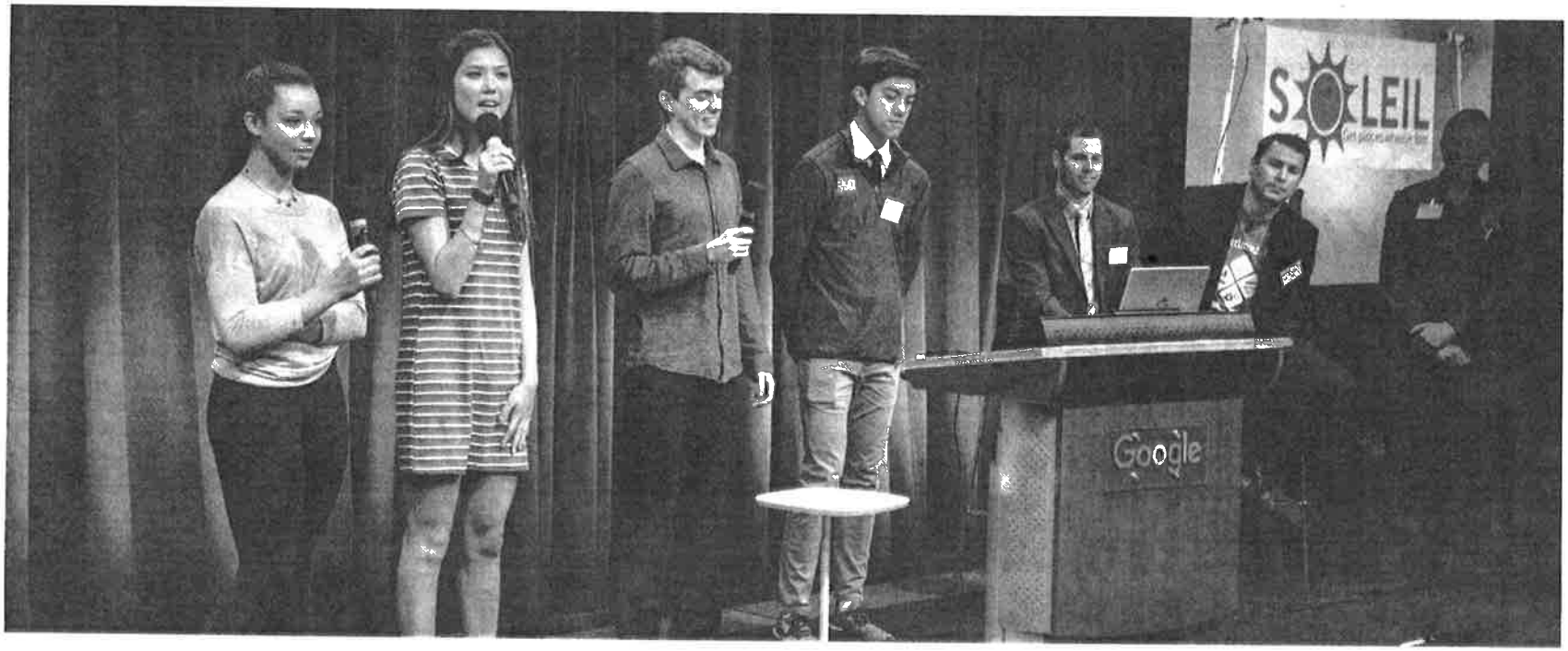

Photo provided by Christopher Dilts

Four Downers Grove High School students were among more than 1,000 participants from 27 Illinois high schools who competed in the sixth annual Illinois Science and Technology Institute's STEM Challenge Showcase in Chicago in late April. The four-member team was selected from 89 students in four classes at North who worked on innovative STEM projects since last fall with the help of their teachers and mentors from local electric utility ComEd. In a partnership with Illinois State University and ComEd, the event challenged students to design and develop solar-powered innovations that support the "Community of the Future." Downers Grove North students developed a solar-powered scooter – using the model of Divvy bikes – to help college students navigate large campuses and reduce emissions at universities. With the help of mentors from ComEd and Northwestern University, the students named their solar-powered scooter program "Soleil," with the catchy tagline, "Get places wheelie fast."