
Chapters, Affinity Groups News

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING - HIGH SCHOOL CAREER FORUM

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Professional engineers wore two hats - engineer and educator, on Dec. 2, as they spent their morning as educators, teaching the career-related disciplines they practice on a day-to-day basis. The twelve engineers joined the Neptune High School students for Neptune's first-ever engineering forum; a day dedicated to giving students a bird's-eye view of careers in various engineering fields.



As part of an ongoing effort to promote engineering among high school students, the NJ Coast WIE organized a career day forum which incorporated classroom-like sessions and a closing assembly, where students gave feedback about their experiences and learned about related scholarship opportunities.

In one of the educational sessions, Cindy Poon, Branch Chief of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center's Tactical Networks branch, and member of the Women in Engineering, taught a group of students about internet protocol addressing and sub-netting.

One of Poon's students, Abigail Sanford, shared her experience with her classmates during the closing session. "We learned about IP addresses and at first, I don't think anyone knew what was going on and then it was actually really simple and I got it," Sanford said.



In addition to teaching the students a new discipline, Principal Richard Allen hoped the event would expose students to the variety of possibilities for a career in engineering. "The connection between real-world problem solving and class work is forged by this relationship. They can now see the 'so what' of their day-to-day class work and their future careers."

Before concluding the day, the students gathered in Neptune's auditorium where Erica Bertoli, Fort Monmouth CERDEC Outreach program manager gave a presentation about science, technology, engineering and math and the various opportunities in the U.S. Army for students.

Due to the enthusiasm of the students, Principal Allen urged the WIE to consider another career day at Neptune. We agreed and another and more expanded, forum which will be held on March 24th. Students will have an opportunity to choose 2 presentations this time and to reach more "future engineers", students from Asbury Park, as well as some Middle Schoolers from Neptune Township, are invited. We expect 225+ students! The WIE has agreed to keep this as an ongoing effort and are in the process of reaching out to several other area schools for the winter 2010/11.



Editor's Note: We would be remiss without mention of the Engineers who gave personal time to create a meaningful presentation and then joined us on the morning of December 2nd to promote engineering through personal stories and educational material. Special thanks to the following:

Carole Perry, Worldradio Magazine and Recipient of the Radio Club of America Life Award, 2009

MaryAnn Apostle, Sales Engineer, Agilent Corporation

Rupal Parikh, Owner, Nexagen Networks, Inc.

Ellen O'Brien, Retired AT&T Human Factors Engineer and Currently Tinton Falls Librarian

Margaret J. Lyons, Director, RCC Consultants, Inc.

Dr. Paula Muller, Owner, Netscale Technologies, Inc.

Dr. Janet Jackel, Principal Engineer, Telcordia

Cindy Poon, Networks Branch Chief, Fort Monmouth and Owner, Koo Restaurants

Lisa VanOrden, Verizon

Fatimah Shehadeh, Consultant

Diane V. Wilkerson, Software Engineering, Booz Allen Hamilton

Scott B. Zederbaum, Sales Manager, Tektronix Corporation

Erica Bertoli Ft Monmouth Outreach Program Manager

Sharon Rushen, Photographer and Aide to Ft. Monmouth Outreach Program

ALSO

Many thanks to TSK LAMBDA - Blackhawk Engineering - Mary Ward Callen, IEEE for Giveaways to the Students
