



2011 ENGINEER-FOR-A-DAY EVENT REPORT

Event Date: Original: February 22, 2011
Rescheduled: March, 15, 2011

Luncheon: The University of Toledo
College of Engineering

Chairperson: Andrew Mekus, PE
Adrienne Taylor, PE
SSOE Group

Tour Location: The University of Toledo
College of Engineering
Hosts: Dr. Brian Randolph,
Mr. Jon Pawlecki

Participating Schools: Bowsher High School
Central Catholic High School
Jefferson High School
Liberty Center High School
Maumee Valley Country Day
St. John's Jesuit High School
St. Joseph Central Catholic
Sylvania Northview
Toledo Christian
Toledo Technology Academy
Whitmer High School

Participating Professionals: CIFT
City of Toledo
Eaton Corporation
SSOE Group
The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.
TolTest, Inc.
TTL Associates, Inc.

Total School Participants: 53 Students
8 Faculty/ Chaperones

Total Professional Participants: 12 Reps.

University of Toledo, College of Engineering Tour (9:00 – 11:30AM):

The Regional Northwest Ohio Engineer for a Day program began with a morning tour of the University of Toledo's College of Engineering. Mr. Jon Pawlecki, Director of Student Services for the College of Engineering and Dr. Brian Randolph, Professor and Associate Dean of Engineering Undergraduate Studies welcomed students and provided an overview of the various engineering disciplines, educational and career paths. Mr. Braeden Gilchrist provided comments on his experience working in the renewable energy field as a co-op. Following this introduction, the students toured the College's engineering labs and departments where various interactive demonstrations were presented to further introduce applications of each engineering field.

Luncheon (11:30 AM – 12:30PM)

Following the university tour, students met with assigned shadowing companies for a luncheon in Nitschke Hall at The University of Toledo. Students, teachers, chaperones, and company representatives had the opportunity to interact during a casual pizza luncheon sponsored by. The cost of the luncheon was \$418. Professor Richard Springman, the Technical Society of Toledo 2011 Engineer of the Year, provided brief comments to the students on what it meant to be an engineer. Everyone was dismissed to their afternoon shadowing locations following lunch.

Student Shadowing (12:30 – 3:30 PM)

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Throughout the afternoon students shadowed practicing engineers, technicians, and engineering student co-ops or took a tour of a manufacturing facility or construction site to learn about day-to-day life in the various engineering professions. Students had an opportunity to ask questions and receive advice about preparing for a career in the field of engineering.

Special Event Notes:

The 2011 EFAD program was rescheduled due to severe weather on 2/22/11 but was successful. Despite budget cuts that precluded schools from registers, a large number of schools and students (148) registered on the original date, however the numbers were drastically decreased due to rescheduling. Ultimately, 70 students were scheduled for the make-up date with only 53 participating. During registration, participation was limited to a maximum of 8 students per school. Several requests were made to bring more students per school and one school did try to bypass this limit by registering two groups but we were able to accommodate all requests.

The registration process for both schools and employers was handled electronically. The University utilized their system to handle the school registrations and Google Spreadsheets with a web form was utilized to register employers. This is the first year registration was handled solely over the internet which helped with planning efficiency.

A minor inconvenience occurred at the luncheon when it was realized that one of the companies, providing shadowing for a single student, did not arrive. With the help of the attending professionals and speaking with the effected student, he was placed with another participating company.

The overwhelming support of those participating, including the school faculty/chaperones and professionals, exhibited the pride this community has for the engineering profession. Their contribution and patience made this event possible and allowed a significant number of high school students the chance to explore a career in engineering.

We were able to cut total money spent on the program this year by approximately 50%. This was done by finding a company willing to donate the printed material and also by researching lower cost options for the lunch. Cookies were not offered this year as they were viewed as adding minimal value.

It is recommended to have a previously scheduled weather date established prior to the event to include in communications with the schools and employers. The schools and employers can then appropriately plan ahead of time in case a cancellation does occur.

As chair of the program, we were extremely pleased with the number of companies that volunteered to host students and way the practicing professionals stepped forward to help with placing every student so no one was turned away. With minor changes, I feel that the Engineer-for-a-Day program will be able to include many more schools in the future in the case of rescheduling due to weather cancellation of the initial program.

Respectfully,

Andrew Mekus, PE
2011 EFAD Co-Chair

Adrienne Taylor, PE
2011 EFAD Co-Chair