

Put an Engineer in the classroom!

How do you arm a STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) Teacher with real-world application examples?

In the 1990's, *Eastman Kodak Company* jumped the gun, starting a family of STEM initiatives, years before the Government coined the STEM acronym. The name of these programs was the *21st Century Learning Challenge, (TCLC)* and at our peek, we were 1500 engineers and technicians, visiting *Rochester City School Classrooms*, twice a week for two-hour visits, during the entire School Year. This effort continued for nearly six years, and not only pre-dates our recent STEM excitement level, but delivered support on a scale we have yet to match. The program leveled three independent attacks on inner-city education; *Classroom Visitations*, totaling nearly 1 million man-hours; *One-on-One Mentoring*, involving more than 300 Students; and a *Teacher/Technical-Worker Exchange Program*, involving 75 teachers, and lasting 5 weeks, every summer.

Many of the volunteers in these programs were, and still are, members of the *Rochester Engineering Society (RES)*. In the intervening twenty-five years, many have retired, or are about to retire. That makes them even more available as STEM Coaches, than they were as Kodak employees.

The *RES* is working to put technical people in K-12 Classrooms, throughout the Greater Rochester area, as STEM Coaches. Their presence will:

- Help the Teacher stay current with our ever-changing technology
- Provide real-World Application Examples, making whatever is being taught, real enough to be remembered
- Support the teachers with not only the delivery of STEM concepts, but more importantly, the design and delivery of STEM related hardware.



The RES Volunteer Coordinator worked as a STEM Coach doing Classroom Visitation at School #3 for the 2014/15 School Year. That was so successful that RCSD is interested in expanding this program to involve six STEM Coaches this year. The Principal at HFL Primary School already has a family of six Engineers supporting STEM efforts.

The RES is specifically seeking retired, technical people, (Engineers, Technicians, Machinists, Entrepreneurs or anyone whose work would allow them to visit during School hours), as STEM Coaches. It deserves mention that there are also several STEM initiatives that need volunteers outside of School hours. The RES Goal is to support all of these out-reach programs.

For more information contact:

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