

Cultivating Future Engineers

High school students who are strong in math and science are being encouraged to study the field of engineering, which is facing a deficit according to recent studies.

On July 12, ALCOSAN hosted a program sponsored by SPEO (Southwestern PA Engineering Outreach) and PECAP (Pitt Engineering Career Access Program) to introduce 18 local high school students, currently enrolled in the PECAP summer program, to engineering “in operation.”



The program included hands-on activities, a plant tour, lunch, and an opportunity for the students to network with engineers from SPEO member companies. Students also met with ALCOSAN Executive Director Arletta Scott Williams, who spoke about her background, career path and opportunities; each student then shared a personal challenge with the group.



The students, mostly 10th graders, were from Baldwin, Central Catholic, Peabody, Alderdice, Brashear and Schenley. The engineers who participated were Jason Venier and Lori Miller from CDM; Jamille Smith and Jonathan Shimko from Sci-Tek, Im Sook from Controls Link; and Donna Chappell from AIG. Lisa Edwards from the Allegheny County Minority Office also joined the group.

SPEO partners with engineering firms, consultants, local government agencies, universities and schools to support and mentor minority– and women-owned business enterprise (MBE/WBE) engineering firms in Southwestern PA and to enhance their long-term viability. One of their missions is to encourage and support youth to enter the engineering profession.