

Dana Volunteers Inspire Local Students Through SAE's "A World In Motion"

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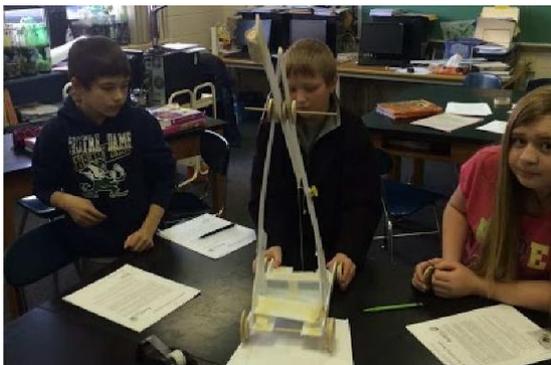
Dana volunteers based in Northwest Ohio recently volunteered their time, energy, and knowledge to work with approximately 200 local students as a part of SAE International's A World In Motion (<http://awim.sae.org/about/>) program (AWIM). The program is teacher-administered, volunteer-assisted, and aims to bring science, technology, engineering, and math education to life in the classroom for students in kindergarten through Grade 12.

Dana has taught AWIM classes for the past two years with the local schools in the Toledo, Ohio, metropolitan area.

"AWIM is a wonderful program, and fits so well with who we are as a technology leader," said George Constand, chief technology officer. "We have a tremendous opportunity to spread the passion for innovation and discovery to the next generation. My hope is that many of our AWIM students will like the curriculum so much that they become future engineers, mathematicians, or scientists!"



Doug Turner, director of electronics and software engineering, helped arrange 14 Dana volunteers with engineering backgrounds to teach programs to seven classrooms at four local elementary schools.



Dana provided a financial donation to the SAE Foundation and in turn received training for teachers and volunteers along with project kits. Dana coordinated with local schools and teachers to select appropriate projects from AWIM's set curriculum. All programs are project-based. For example, students in a 5th-grade class built gravity cruisers and groups were tasked with making their vehicles effective and efficient. More about AWIM's curriculum can be found by clicking here (<http://awim.sae.org/curriculum/>).

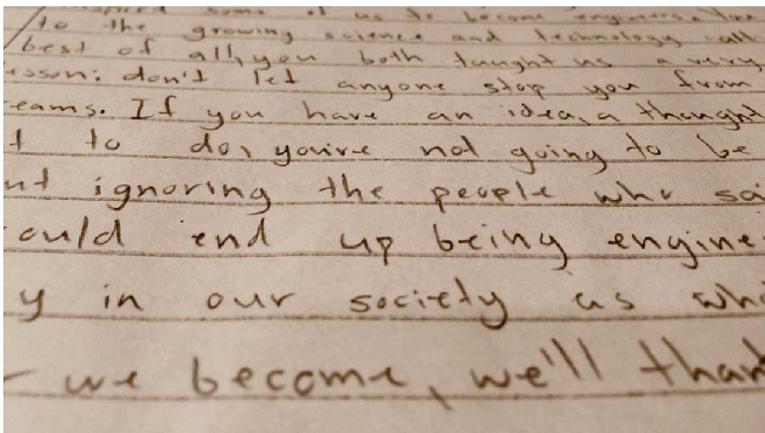
This program is more than simply teaching simple concepts to a class," said Turner. "We try to inspire a can-do attitude that the students can carry with them. We are continually emphasizing the importance of innovation, creativity, and learning from mistakes. We want the kids to know that it's OK to struggle. We want them to feel the joy of overcoming adversity."

The message stuck. In a thank-you note to Turner, one student said: "...you taught us a very important life lesson: don't let anyone stop you from achieving your dreams. If you have an idea, a thought, something you want to do, you're not going to be able to complete it without ignoring the people who said it couldn't be done. We could end up being engineers who change the technology in our society as whole, or maybe not. But, whatever we become, we'll thank you for the inspiration."

When hearing of the recent success of the program via her colleagues in Ohio, Eve Steigerwalt, technical fellow, advanced engineering, was inspired to bring AWIM to one of the schools in her area. She initiated the effort by talking to administrators and teachers at a school in Tennessee and is currently volunteering in a second-grade science class.



She hopes that more Dana people volunteer for the AWIM program. Steigerwalt said: "In many small cities where Dana has operations, we have a great opportunity to become a large part of the culture and make a big impact in the local community."



"It is truly a great feeling knowing that so many Dana people care about making a difference in their communities," added Constand. "Thank you to those involved in our recent AWIM effort. And, if you even have the slightest inkling to create something similar in your community, I encourage you to pursue and explore the opportunity."

Are you interested in starting a similar program in your community or helping out with the next cycle of school activities in Ohio or Tennessee? For more information, please contact Doug Turner at doug.turner@dana.com or Eve Steigerwalt at eve.steigerwalt@dana.com.