

Richmond Minorities in Engineering Partnership



Engage.
Interact.
Inspire.



Our why...

Do you remember the first time you were asked what you want to be when you grow up? Are you doing the things you said you would be doing when you were a teenager? If you are like most of us you probably are doing something that you didn't know existed as a child. Our lives take so many twist and turns over the years and these experiences are what we rely on to make decisions that significantly impact our futures.

This mantra inspired the Richmond Minorities in Engineering Partnership to create an environment where students have the opportunity to engage with members of our community to learn about career paths, interact with students who have common interests in harnessing their science, technology, engineering and mathematical talents to earn a living, and to be inspired to do things greater than what they can see in their immediate environment.

If you weren't fortunate enough to have exposure to a program like this growing up can you imagine how something like this would have changed your life?

Plugging the leaky pipeline

Year after year many students decide to pursue careers outside of STEM disciplines without gaining insight into what the career options actually are. Unfortunately, these professions carry a stigma that they are too complicated to be a viable option for them. This places our country in a dire situation, the pending retirements of the baby boomers, the decreased opportunities to perform unskilled labor in the United States and the increased demand for individuals who are talented with regard to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics combine to create an environment where we have to question whether or not the future of our workforce is secure.

The nature of these challenges can only be altered by increasing the candidate pool. Unlike many other professions, preparation for entering these disciplines starts in middle school because the rigorous high school academic track required to be STEM college ready is a path rarely taken if a technical profession is not a student's dream. We believe one of the most effective means of cultivating this dream in students who would not typically be exposed to these professions is to place them in an environment where they can apply the principals they learn in hands on activities.

The challenges...

- Low graduation rate
- Small subset of students college ready for STEM degree coursework
- Pending wave of retirements from Baby Boomer Generation
- Little exposure to professionals in the field
- No media push to market the career paths as a viable option



Engagement

- Increased participation by 30%
- Perfect attendance by 98% of students
- 50% of students return after the first year

Interaction

- 16 mentors participated in 2015
- 8 industries/companies represented

Inspiration

“I participated in all phases of RMEP where I was able to explore my interest in Math. I was introduced to engineers and professors who were **passionate** about what they taught us. Because of this I was **inspired** to continue my education and went on to receive my Bachelors of Science degree in Architectural **Engineering**. If I had never been introduced to this program, I probably would still be trying to fit into the common goals of most—becoming lawyers or doctors.”

~Dawn Hicks



Engage.

Like many people in the workplace, students are looking for a career that will be enjoyable, contributes above self, has strong earning potential, and has work life balance. There are few vocations that embody all of these characteristics as an entry level employee; however, STEM disciplines do. When we engage our students our primary focus is to show them this career path is enjoyable. RMEP's hands on activities allows students to explore ideas they have not considered before. This exploration engages their minds, begins to give them an understanding of what these careers actually do and causes them to seek additional ways to interact.

Interact.

Whether it is a classroom presentation by one of our guest speakers, a seminar style lecture by a teacher or a mentor helping the students through one of their hands on activities, interaction is the glue that makes the dream of being a STEM professional stick. Over the years we have exposed ____ students to over ____ individuals who have chosen STEM as their employment. These interactions are always recounted in our end of program presentations where students cite these experiences as their favorite part of the program.

Inspire.

STEM professionals turn ideas into reality every single day. Unfortunately, this is not the way most students are exposed to these professions. We have to change the way we talk about this career field so that it becomes a realistic career choice for our youngsters. The combination of using the right marketing message and exposure to individuals who exude a passion for what they do are the key ingredients for inspiring a vocation in STEM. After each summer experience we want students to know that STEM disciplines are changing their world daily. These individuals develop creative, practical solutions and work with other smart, inspiring people to invent, design, and create things that matter.



Our Programs and Partners

For over 25 years we have offered rising 7th through 12th graders a 3 week summer experience on college campuses at our partner institutions for a nominal fee. When you combine this immersion experience with enthusiastic staff, instructors and mentors it creates a perfect environment for dreams to take hold. We have been fortunate enough to partner with many industry professionals who have shared donations of time, talent and treasure. Many of these individuals are affiliated with some of the most prestigious companies in the area.

Their continued support and growing our relationships with new faces in the community is essential to continuing to provide this amazing opportunity to our future. How will you join us as we engage, interact and inspire?

- \$ 3,000 funds a teaching position
- \$1,000 provides experiment material for 5 students
- \$205 funds a research assistantship
- \$1,000 provides a tuition scholarship for one child
- \$ 2500 covers transportation costs to 2 site visit
- \$ 2,000 supports our annual scholarship

What you can do to help...

Time

Our most precious resource is the one we need the most. We use the gift of time in the following ways:

- Guest speakers
- Classroom support staff
- Site tours

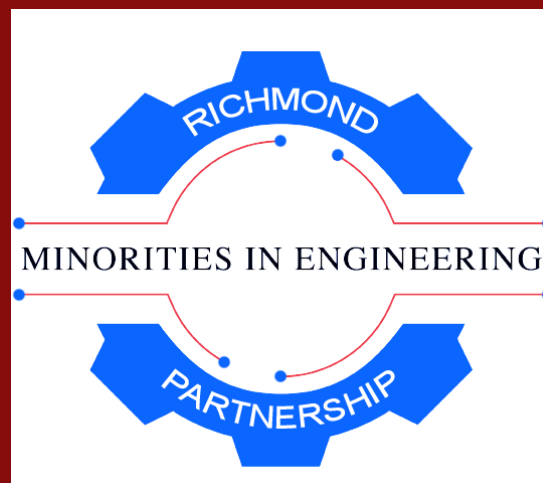
Talent

We need volunteers who can help run our organization at a very low administrative burden. We are currently looking for individuals who have backgrounds in graphics, website operations, fundraising, and curriculum design.

Treasure

We have 5 different sponsorship levels that allow the community to show their commitment to our mission.

- **Platinum**—\$10,000 +
- **Diamond**—\$5,000 to \$9,999
- **Gold**—\$2,500 to \$4,999
- **Silver**—\$1,500 to \$2,499
- **Bronze**—\$1 to \$1,499



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