



Joe Vargo

Executive Director

Partners For Education & Business

CNY Technology Sector Companies Provide Networking & Internship Opportunities to CNY STEM Scholars

On January 4th, another networking opportunity for former applicants of the CNY STEM Scholarships took place at Lockheed Martin. The CNY STEM Hub, Partners for Education & Business, Inc. (PEB), and 10 Tech Sector companies hosted an informational event for college students that included networking, speed interviews, a panel discussion of the “Dos and Don’ts of the Hiring Process,” and a resume workshop.

Greg Larioni, V.P. and General Manager of Radar Sensor Systems (RSS) at Lockheed Martin, welcomed the students and provided them with tips about securing internships and employment opportunities. Greg stated, “Events like these are really important not only for students but for us, as well. There are great job opportunities here at Lockheed Martin Syracuse. We want to make sure that we are reaching out to local students to encourage them to pursue STEM careers as these individuals are critical to the success of high technology companies in Central New York.” SRC’s Corporate Communications Director, Lisa Mondello, followed with an overview of the day’s agenda and explained to the students how companies involved in the CNY Technology Sector, as well as many others from the CNY area, have more STEM-related job positions to fill than there are candidates for. PEB’s Executive Director, Joe Vargo, illustrated how they all became part of the STEM Scholar Connection due to their previous application for

a CNY STEM scholarship and how they will continue to receive invitations to future networking events in an effort to help them secure internships and jobs and to keep their talent here in their home state.

Approximately 50 top-achieving college students, ranging from 1st – 4th year in undergraduate studies, participated in speed interviews with representatives from the CNY Technology Sector companies. Most of the companies had job openings and/or internships in Electrical, Mechanical, Chemical, Biomedical and Civil Engineering as well as Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Environmental Science. A panel of Human Resource professionals and newly-hired young professionals spoke to the students about how to best present yourself to prospective employers. Michelle Leombrone, HR Business Partner from Lockheed Martin, facilitated. Dan Blanding, Operations Manager from Lockheed Martin, and Brittani O’Connell, Hiring Manager from SRC, Inc., conducted the panel discussion and Ben Roers, from the Leadership Development Program at Lockheed Martin spoke about his experience as a new hire, delivering relatable information in a dialogue titled “My Perspective.” The students had an opportunity to ask questions about securing internships and employment, interviewing skills, etc.

In addition to the useful workshops and networking opportunities, students were provided a hearty lunch and had a chance to win one of many prizes donated by attending companies.

Many thanks to the participating CNY Technology Sector companies: Carrier Corporation, C&S Companies, INFICON, King + King Architects, Lockheed Martin, MITRE Corporation, National Grid, NYS DEC, SRC, Inc., and United Radio.



Greg Larioni, V.P. and General Manager of RSS at Lockheed Martin, welcomes the CNY STEM Scholar Connection students to the January 4th networking/internship event.

P-TECH Update

Auburn P-TECH Students Visit Xylem

On December 7, Auburn P-TECH Freshmen visited Xylem for an industry tour. The students learned that Xylem's mission is to solve water problems from agriculture and irrigation to commercial buildings and construction. One of the products that Xylem makes at their Auburn facility is water pumps for both home and business use. Before the tour, the students were given a presentation and a chance to look at all the products Xylem produces onsite. After the presentation, the students were given some personal protection equipment and were taken on the tour. Their first stop was the shipping department and the first thing they noticed was how efficiently and quickly products were being moved from the shelves to the scanners.



Xylem focuses on getting the product to the customer in a timely manner so having the product in stock is a must. One of the other interesting parts of the tour was that the students were able to see technicians assemble a customized pump. Our guide explained that in order to make the pump easy to install for customers, Xylem assembles the pump at the factory and packages the product, so when it reaches the customer, the product is ready to be used as soon as it is installed. Another point that was emphasized to the students was that in order to make a good product, great care must be taken during the production process. The staff at Xylem feel that not only should the product work, but it should be of high quality. Thank you, Xylem for a great visit!

Syracuse P-TECH Students focus on Workforce Preparation

A new workforce preparation activity was instituted on January 8th for the entire Junior class of P-TECH students as well as some of the Senior class. The students first submitted resume-type information and had their pictures taken which will be used for a portfolio to be sent to participating business partners who may have openings for summer employment, part-time employment, or unpaid internships.

After opening remarks, the students were divided into three groups. Each group rotated through various sessions led by HR professionals. The "Dos and Don'ts of Interviewing" was directed by Heather Dera of CXTec; "Resume Writing Tips and Reviews" was conducted by Katelin Arnold from the SHRM Diversity Council; and "Interview Preparation/Use of Social Media" was headed by James Branche of United Radio. These workshops will prepare the students for a Job and Career Fair that will take place at the school on May 23rd, as well as for job/internship postings that will be submitted by companies offering these opportunities. Mayor Ben Walsh and SCSD Superintendent Jaime Alicea briefly visited each workshop and discussed with Bob Leslie, Director of CTE Programs at SCSD, the progress of the P-TECH Program. Mayor Walsh also heard a success story from P-TECH Senior Robert Felder regarding how he gained employment opportunities with United Radio because of the P-TECH Program's connections with the business community.

