STEM Networking Event held on October 25th for Students, Parents and Professionals

By D. Arthur Lee

Survive Engineering office in Belcamp hosted 63 high school students, parents, educators, exhibitors and STEM professionals for the 3rd Annual Chesapeake Post, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) STEM Networking Event on October 25, 2017. Stan Childs, the SAME Chesapeake Post student STEM networking chairperson, organized the event with corporate sponsor, Survive Engineering. The Aberdeen Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) also co-sponsored the event and provided dinner for the attendees. Representatives from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) presented internship opportunities available at APG. Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) representatives provided program information on STEM enrichment activities, STEM competitions, apprenticeships and DoD scholarships and awards. Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) was well-represented with Human Resource personnel, STEM Education Outreach, and Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC) SMART personnel.

Clark Dutterer hosted the gathering at the Survive Engineering office, along with other Survive employees. Ellen Phifer, Deputy Manager of the Research & Analysis Group at the SURVICE Aberdeen Research Operation, briefed the group on current equipment weight-reduction projects. Their research helped trim 33% of the weight from a helicopter tail rotor by using a composite drive shaft versus an aluminum design. SURVICE team members designed a composite-material aircraft electronics enclosure box to protect the contents from electronic signals. The team achieved a 76% weight reduction from the traditional 1-inch thick metal enclosure box.

Students, STEM professionals and parents participated in Speed Mentoring. Students had the opportunity to talk about their academic interests and ask questions for 3 minutes with 5 separate individuals working in STEM career fields.

TechBrick provided the sound system and event photographic services. Many of the attendees stopped by TechBrick’s display and expressed interest in their STEM programs for students K-12. https://techbrick.com/ TechBrick meets on APG on Tuesday nights. If you'd like to visit on any Tuesday night call Marco Ciavolino at 410-838-8264 or send an email to marco@techbrick.com

The SAME Chesapeake Post will host the annual Student STEM Luncheon at the Wetlands Golf Course on Thursday, December 21, 2017, 11:15 AM to 2:30 PM. Students, parents and professionals are welcome. Opportunities for internships on APG, college scholarships/financial aid and speed mentoring will be presented. The SAME Chesapeake Post has
provided 63 scholarships and over $61,000 to STEM scholars in Harford and Cecil Counties over the past 8 years.

The next STEM networking event is on December 21, 2017, 11:30am-2:30pm at the Wetlands Golf Course. Please register at https://2017stemstudentluncheon.eventbrite.com/

Want to know more about the SAME Chesapeake Post meetings, scholarships and internship opportunities? Check our Facebook page! https://www.facebook.com/Society-of-American-Military-Engineers-Chesapeake-Post-SAME-Chesapeake-1376613105971032/

Dr. Arthur Lee is a retired Army Medical Service Corps officer with a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He is a PE in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and is an Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Engineering participant at the US Army Public Health Center.

Stan Childs, SAME Chesapeake Post STEM Network chair, addresses the students.
Mike Bowen, president of the Aberdeen chapter of AFCEA, welcomes the students and parents.

Brian Leftridge (left), an Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) Education Specialist, talks with Alisha Kifer and Lewis Knoll, both students at Fallston High School, at the AEOP display.
Ellen Pfifer, Deputy Manager of the Research & Analysis Group at SURVICE Engineering, briefs composite material projects.

Students and STEM professionals speed mentoring.
Kim Watts, (left) chair of the SAME Chesapeake Post Scholarship and Mentoring Committee and an RDECOM chemist, talks with Anna Hilburgh, a sophomore at the Science and Math Academy, about SAME programs.

Alisha Kifer, a sophomore at Fallston High School, talks with LTC Hilburgh from APG during the speed mentoring session.
Dr. Art Lee (left), environmental engineer, talks with Amy Pham, a student at the Science and Math Academy, about SAME educational opportunities.