



Since 1988, NEPIRC has been working with manufacturers to improve their productivity, profitability, competitiveness and long-term viability through consultative services.

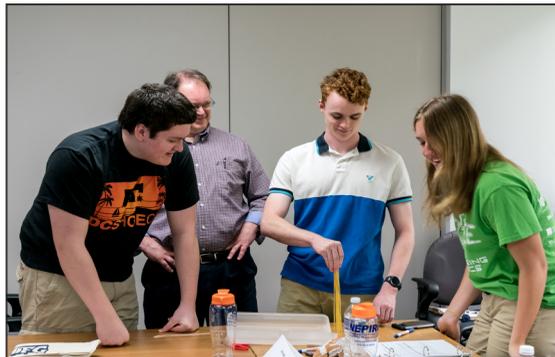


## Camp Gives Students New Perspective on Manufacturing

Summer vacation? Not for these area high school students. During the last two weeks of June, high school juniors and seniors from several local schools elected to participate in an Adventures in Advanced Manufacturing Camp coordinated by NEPIRC.

Funded through a grant from Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development and private industry contributions, the camp connected high school students with local manufacturers and introduced them to Lean Manufacturing, 3D Printing, Coding and Automation in an effort to raise awareness of the skill sets required in today’s advanced manufacturing employment settings.

Students participated in exercises, engaged in discussions about principles and practices of high-level manufacturing and attended plant tours that demonstrated real-world activities occurring in advanced manufacturing environments. Student engagement in the camp – despite it being held right after the end of the school year – really demonstrated a true interest in modern manufacturing.



Student campers participate in hands-on activities while learning teamwork skills.



Student Campers visit Greiner Packaging located in Pittston and participate in a facility tour.

Company tours included Greiner Packaging and ON Semiconductor and a visit to Luzerne County Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing Center.

Students also practiced their technical and creative skills through the assembly, programming and test-flying of their own aerial drones and used 3D

printing software and machinery housed at NEPIRC’s Innovation Space Learning Lab. “The classes were interesting and I learned a lot about advanced practices in manufacturing,” noted Abigail Post, a student at Crestwood High School. “During the tours, we actually saw what we learned and applied it to real situations and companies.”

“I had a lot of misconceptions about manufacturing,” admitted John Morris of Holy Redeemer High School. “When I went on the tours, I saw that manufacturing is really clean and interesting. I learned that it’s not what I

thought it was.”

Throughout the camp, NEPIRC team members emphasized that local manufacturers are in need of well-trained students to help fill their employment pipelines of the future.

“NEPIRC hears from companies all the time about the need for future workers,” noted Eric Joseph Esoda, NEPIRC President and CEO. “We’re trying new, innovative approaches to address this issue and ensure that our local students have access to accurate and timely information about our modern manufacturing community.”

Sponsorships from Luzerne County Community College, Greiner Packaging and ON Semiconductor also contributed to the success of the program.

Given the positive response to its June program, NEPIRC is developing a follow-up 2-week camp for August, which will be held in Lackawanna County. For more information call 570-704-0018.

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