

Georgia Power volunteers bring engineering to life for student during E-Week



Monday, Feb. 29, 2016 – Georgia Power volunteers brought engineering to life for students across the state in celebration of National Engineers Week (E-Week).

Georgia Power’s Technical Women in Georgia (TWIG) and Valuing Openness, Inclusion, Community and Education (VOICE) employee resource group members led students through interactive science, technology engineering and math (STEM) activities that reinforced this year’s theme, “Engineers Make a World of Difference.”

VOICE kicked off E-Week at Chamblee High School in DeKalb County. Keith Williams, transmission controls supervisor, and Melody Welch, transmission analyst, led a discussion with students on the value of engineering and talked about what it takes to be an engineer with Southern Company and Georgia Power.

“Students participated in a break-out session where they were asked to consider the impact they want to have on the world and how they plan to do it,” said Williams. “We also played a video, *Georgia Power 101*, that showed the students the fundamentals of how we deliver power so they could see engineering in action.”

Students at Sonoraville High School in Calhoun used their imagination and developing engineering skills to build and race balloon-powered rocket cars using Newton's third law of motion.

TWIG members Socorro Rodriguez, Dalton and Cartersville customer service supervisor; Tamara Coleman, Plant Bowen instrumentation and controls technician; Marcisha Adams, transmission protection and controls design engineer; and Jessica Sherrit, Dalton distribution engineer; talked to three different freshmen classes about the different types of engineering jobs in the workplace, and then led them through a hands-on activity that emphasized the creativity in engineering.

"We divided the students into teams and gave them a bag of common things, including a water bottle, straws and balloons they could use to design their cars," said Sherrit. "Each team came up with a name and a reason why they thought their car would win the race at the end of class. Some creative team names were White Knight, Green Bee and the Twink-a-nator."

TWIG held similar presentations throughout the week at Discovery High School, Arabia Mountain High School and Therrell High School in metro Atlanta, as well as Westside High School in Macon, Jenkins High School in Savannah and Sego middle School in Augusta. On Thursday – which was designated as Girl's Day as part of Engineers Week to emphasize the need for female engineers – East Region Vice President Fran Forehand and several representatives from the Vogtle Women in Engineering chapter spoke to 40 ninth- through 12th-grade girls at Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School in Augusta.

"The opportunity to speak to the female students at the Richmond County Technical Career Magnet School was a great opportunity for Georgia Power and Southern Company to raise the girls' awareness that engineering is a pathway they should consider," said Debra Howell, workforce development manager.

TWIG closed out E-Week at Stevens Elementary School in Martinez, despite having worked storm duty the night before in the hard-hit Augusta area.