



NEWS RELEASE

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Columbia Engineering and Services, Inc. celebrates National Engineers Week by mentoring future engineers

On Wednesday, February 27, some 8th grade students from **Coleman Middle School** will spend the day at **Columbia Engineering** getting hands-on experience while exploring the roles of civil engineers. By hosting members of Coleman Middle’s *8th Grade Fundamentals of Engineering class*, Columbia Engineering is joining the school in its mission to build 21st century learners who are able to critically think, communicate, collaborate, and be creative through problem-based and integrated learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math.

In preparation for the visit, the 16 students in the class have researched civil engineering, received an overview of Columbia from engineers visiting their class, formed four engineering firms, and designed company logos. On the program day at Columbia, the students will work within their respective firms to provide the best solution for a civil engineering project. Throughout the day, engineering, land planning, and survey professionals will facilitate overviews providing students with the information needed to move forward with their planning and designs. Students will utilize AutoCAD to produce their designs. At the end of the day, the four firms will present their designs to a panel of judges. The firm with the most outstanding design will receive an award. The schedule and details for the February 27th Program Day is as follows:

| Time | Activity |
|------------------|--|
| 9:45 - 10:00 am | Welcome from Leadership— Randy Strunk, PE, Municipal Department Manager, Associate Owner |
| 10:00 - 10:15 am | Client meets with Firms— Jennifer Losurdo, PE, Commercial Development Dept. will communicate the client’s engineering needs. |
| 10:15 - 10:30 am | Land Planning Overview—Roger Grant, Registered Landscape Architect (RLA), Land Planner, Certified Arborist- Landscape Architecture Dept. will provide the “firms” with a brief overview of land planning, topography, and introduction of design assignment. |
| 10:30 – 11:05 am | Student firms begin working on land planning options. |
| 11:05 – 11:35 am | Student firms begin drafting utilizing AutoCAD. |
| 11:35 – 11:45 am | Break |
| 11:45 am | Lunch |

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|------------------|---|
| 12:05 – 12:20 pm | Visit from Director of Survey Dept.—Dan Conroy, Registered Land Surveyor (RLS) Director of Survey will share survey results of the property site revealing information that will impact each firm’s design. |
| 12:20 – 1:20 pm | Firms will revise land planning designs due to restrictions found in survey results. |
| 1:20 – 1:30 pm | Break |
| 1:30 – 1:40 pm | Water Quality Structures Presentation—Damien DiVittorio, PE, Municipal Dept. |
| 1:40 – 2:30 pm | Firms will return to their headquarters to design water quality structures for their site plan |
| 2:30 – 2:40 pm | Students will print designs and select spokesperson for each firm |
| 2:40 – 3:20 pm | Firm spokespersons will present project designs and answer questions from judges |
| 3:20 – 3:40 pm | Announcement of winning firm and closing Remarks — Mr. Strunk |

Columbia Engineering staff hope that this interactive day will provide students with insight into the many components involved in building communities. Columbia Engineering staff believe that after this experience, as students look at their surroundings, they will see their communities in a new light. The leadership at Columbia Engineering also are hopeful that this hands-on “day in the life of a civil engineer” experience will encourage students to continue seeking opportunities to actively research their unlimited options for career choices.