



Terri's Tidbit's – Flipped Internship

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Silicon Forest Electronics was offered an opportunity by Partners in Careers to be a part of their “Flipped Internship” program to share our world of advanced manufacturing with high school students at iTech Preparatory. The purpose of the Flipped Internship is to bring career related experiences to the classroom to help high school students understand what a career in manufacturing would look like, and inspire them to pursue the education and training necessary to become future employees. iTech Prep is a public STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) magnet school for grades 6 through 12 here in Vancouver, Washington.

We have the privilege of mentoring a class of sixteen students, ranging from grade levels of sophomore through senior. Our General Manager Jay Schmidt and I have spent time with this class and I can say without exception every one of these students are amazingly bright people.

The topic for the second week with the class was an “Introduction to Lean” manufacturing that I had the opportunity to teach. Near the end of the class we broke into two groups - one group worked independently to draw something that described a lean tool and the rest of the class broke into teams of two. Their task was to identify a problem they recently had, then get to the root cause by using the “5 Whys” (of problem solving). In a short period of time, they all knocked it out of the park! The drawings were spectacular and the “5 Whys” actually got to the root cause, not just the indirect cause.

Working with the next generation is such a positive experience. If you ever have the opportunity to share your knowledge with youth, I highly recommend that you take that opportunity - it will be an experience you will want to do again because it is rejuvenating!

For more information about Partners in Careers, go to: <http://www.partnersincareers.org/>

Contributed by:

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