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What Problem Do You Want To Solve?

Young people are often asked by educators what careers interest them: What do you like and dislike? What gets you excited? What do you want to DO when you grow up?

But we have another, perhaps more critically important question: What problem do you want to solve?

Most middle and high school students want to do more than study and graduate. They want to contribute. They want to propel society forward. Securing cyberspace, engineering better medicines, improving infrastructure and modernizing systems in communities, or providing equal access to clean water—they want to make this world better. They just might not have a full toolbox to tackle those challenges yet.

That’s where we come in.

At Michigan Technological University, inside the Center for Pre-College Outreach, there is a deep understanding that students of all ages are eager to start solving the grand challenges facing civilization. They want to tinker. They seek to inquire. To “give it a try.” We know how important it is to not only excite young people about science and engineering, but also to show them the why and how of STEM. We align ourselves with other problem-solvers—Michigan Tech faculty and graduate students, industry partners, and STEM-centric institutions and organizations—because together we are innovative and bold. We create unique opportunities students have never seen before. And we’re continually refining our craft to deploy experiences that enhance and elevate their capacity to solve.

Local to regional, national to international. Our programs energize more than 75,000 students each year. Whether we’re welcoming students into labs during Summer Youth Programs or bringing hands-on science to their backyard with Mind Trekkers, we make sure students know these fields are for them.

This report highlights the programs and outcomes we are most proud of in 2017. We are driven by our mission to create the future—to try and be the solution to the challenge of boosting students to reach their highest potential. Each new day is an opportunity to impact lives. We look forward to new faces and places in 2018.

Thank you for your support.

–Center for Pre-College Outreach Staff, Michigan Technological University
Government, industry, the non-profit community, and educational institutions agree—our country must develop a sustainable system for human capital equipped with expertise in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

How?

Spark a sense of wonder.

Our programs invite students from across the United States and abroad to dive into STEM intentionally and purposefully.

Our College Access programs offer experiences for local youth—in schools and on campus. Summer Youth Programs (SYP) provide a platform for more than 1,000 students from around the world to immerse themselves in future career paths. Mind Trekkers, our mobile roadshow, showcases STEM in action for thousands of educators and families. These programs inspire students to become scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. Many SYP alumni go on to attend Michigan Tech where they continue their STEM education.
**SYP ALUMNI ON CAMPUS:**

- 686 students
- 9% of the student body
- 59% increase over five years
- 95% majoring in STEM fields
- 270 identify as female
- 81% call Michigan home
- 24% enrolled in Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics

**2017 ATTENDEES**

37 states and 9 countries represented

Brazil
Canada
Kingdom of Bahrain
Pakistan
Russia
South Korea
Sweden
Turkey
United Arab Emirates

*Five-year overview of matriculated students at Michigan Tech*
Summer Youth Programs

Summer Youth Programs (SYP) encourages participants to be bold. Choose adventure. Push limits.

Our mission is quality, innovative teaching and learning experiences that promote academic studies, college life, and career awareness to a diverse group of pre-college students. Through hands-on, discovery-based programs, students break out of their comfort zone and stretch their imaginations—without the pressure of grades, exams, or assignments.

Michigan Tech prepares its students to create the future, and SYP provides a bridge to pre-college students. They get valuable insight into what their future could look like. SYP strives to prepare students so that college is a viable option in their future.

Our facilities, along with our research and teaching faculty, deans, and advisors, help students develop college and career goals. Current Michigan Tech students serve as role models, providing inspiration, encouragement, and guidance.
92% felt their exploration differed from their classrooms back home

66% felt more likely to attend college

86% showed interest in coming back for another summer

88% gained confidence in their ability to be successful in a college atmosphere

96% would recommend their exploration to others

17% could not have attended without a scholarship

53 courses offered, including:
- Aviation and Aerospace
- Blacksmithing
- Chemical Engineering
- Computer and Electrical Engineering
- Forensic Science and CSI
- Outdoor Leadership
- Video Game Programming

“Everyone should experience a camp like this before college.”
Through Women in Engineering (WIE), 118 young women explored different areas of engineering and their applications. They learned about engineering careers, investigated the many ways engineers impact the quality of our lives, and developed team skills through Destination Imagination simulations. Participants met female role models who work in engineering fields and discussed strategies for success in undergraduate engineering programs.

The young women also got a taste of campus life. They met other students and built networks and friendships while enjoying the recreation and natural setting of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

“I found my passion. Thank you for the best experience of my life!”
3.89 average GPA
95% would recommend Women in Engineering to others
86% felt more likely to pursue a career in engineering
86% considered themselves very informed regarding the variety of career options available in engineering
88% rated the hands-on activities as above average

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**GROUP ENGINEERING PROJECTS INCLUDED:**
- Bath Bombs: The Stoichiometric Chemical Processes
- Building Strong Structures
- Drawdio: A Pencil That Lets You Draw Music
- From Imagination to Creation with Computer-Aided Design
- Go With the Flow: Cast Metals
- Heat it and Hammer it: Blacksmithing
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Let’s Design Materials with Architecture Inside
- Mud and Fire! Intro to Landslides and Volcanoes
- Online Game Development
- Saponification: Good Clean Fun
- Take Control of an i-Robot

**NOT YOUR TYPICAL CLASSROOM EXPERIMENTS**
Students participated in projects during nine different engineering sessions, including:

- Deconstructing a hair dryer to learn how its mechanical and electrical components interact
- Designing a bridge and testing its strength
- Hiking in local wetlands to discover the importance of environmental engineering
- Operating a continuous chemical reactor
- Recreating natural disasters and studying how natural components affect their severity
- Thermo-mechanical processing of shape-memory wire
During the Engineering Scholars Program (ESP), 129 participants explored careers in mechanical, computer, environmental, electrical, chemical, biomedical, civil, geological, and materials engineering, and investigated the many ways an engineer can impact quality of life.

Students got insider information from role models working in engineering fields. They developed team skills through Destination Imagination challenges, learned about the college application process, and received tips for succeeding in university engineering programs. They experienced college life by staying in a residence hall, exploring campus, and meeting people with similar interests.

Students enjoyed team competitions, a variety show, and outdoor activities in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

“This program made me a better student.”
3.8 average GPA
98% would recommend the Engineering Scholars Program to others
85% felt more likely to pursue a future career in engineering
81% felt more informed of the wide variety of career options in engineering
91% rated the hands-on activities as above average

Engineering Group Projects
- Bath Bombs: The Stoichiometric Chemical Processes
- Building Strong Structures
- Drawdio: A Pencil That Lets You Draw Music
- From Imagination to Creation with Computer-Aided Design
- Go With the Flow: Cast Metals
- Heat it and Hammer it: Blacksmithing
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Let’s Design Materials with Architecture Inside
- Mud and Fire! Intro to Landslides and Volcanoes
- Online Game Development
- Saponification: Good Clean Fun
- Take Control of an i-Robot

OUT-OF-THE-BOX CLASSROOM CHALLENGES
Students participated in projects during a series of nine engineering sessions, including:
- Disassembling and reassembling a hair dryer to understand its mechanical components
- Designing a bridge and testing its strength
- Hiking in local wetlands to discover the importance of environmental engineering
- Operating a continuous chemical reactor
- Recreating natural disasters and studying the part that natural components play in their severity
- Thermo-mechanical processing of shape-memory wire
In partnership with Ford Motor Company, Jackson National Life Insurance Company, Target, and 24G, the Women in Computer Science (WICS) program provided 27 high school females an opportunity to explore careers and areas in the computing industry. Students developed team- and problem-solving skills while they created an application using the MIT App Inventor.

Participants met guest speakers and industry role models who broadened their perspective of women in this field. At Jackson, participants toured the facility and learned about computing opportunities and projects. The group got acquainted with college life while connecting with other young women with similar interests.

**Computing Explorations**
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- Data Mining
- Networks
- Programming
- Virtual Reality
- Visualization

**Average Weighted GPA of Women in Computer Science Program**

**3.87**

Weighted GPAs give additional points for advanced courses such as Advanced Placement courses.

**“I’ve always been interested in computer science, but this week made me sure this is a field worth pursuing.”**

**Participating Industry Role Models**
- Google
- Microsoft
- Netflix
- Pivotal

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Grade Level Fall 2017**
- 11% 10th
- 33% 11th
- 56% 12th

**Geographic Distribution**
- 1 Other USA
- 8 Midwest (non Michigan)
- 19 Michigan

**Ethnicity**
- 89% Caucasian
- 7% Asian American
- 4% African American
Women in Automotive Engineering

The women in Automotive Engineering (WIAE) scholarship program offered a discovery of disciplines, knowledge, and careers in automotive engineering for 19 young women. Students explored areas of automotive engineering and its application, learned about careers, and developed new skills in automotive labs.

Participants also met female role models working in the automotive engineering industry and other students with similar backgrounds and interests.

They got a taste of campus life while enjoying recreation in the natural setting of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

84% of participants would recommend WIAE to others

100% of participants considered themselves “very informed” regarding the variety of career options available in engineering

100% of participants indicated having an interest in engineering after attending WIAE

84% of participants felt more likely to have a career in engineering after attending WIAE

Average Weighted GPA of WIAE

3.8

Weighted GPAs give additional points for advanced courses such as Advanced Placement courses

“My high school doesn’t have many opportunities for engineering, so this camp was vital for my introduction to automotive engineering.”

Demographics

Grade Level Fall 2017
16% 10th
31% 11th
53% 12th

Geographic Distribution
1 Other USA
3 Midwest (non Michigan)
14 Michigan
1 Pakistan

Ethnicity
90% Caucasian
5% Multiracial
5% Pakistani
During the National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI), 28 participants explored different areas of transportation, including planes, trains, automobiles, and ships. Students learned about bridge design, airport construction, and snow roads in Antarctica from role models working in transportation fields.

Field trips gave students an opportunity to explore real-world projects. They visited the all-wood Eagle River Bridge, the Portage Lake Lift Bridge, and Isle Royale National Park. The group also went on a weekend excursion to Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace to tour the Soo Locks, International Bridge, and Mackinac Bridge.

In addition to travel, NSTI students became acquainted with college life and extracurricular activities on campus while meeting other talented teens with similar backgrounds and interests.

The National Summer Transportation Institute (NSTI) is sponsored by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration.

100% of participants felt the transportation industry has greatly contributed to solving world problems

93% of participants rated the hands-on activities as above average—many said this was their favorite part of NSTI

89% of participants felt more informed about their career options in the transportation field

82% of participants felt more motivated to learn about the transportation industry after NSTI

After completing NSTI, participants plan to take the following transportation or related classes during high school or college:

- 96% Math
- 86% Science
- 89% Technology
- 61% Transportation
- 86% Design
- 43% Shop

“This experience sparked my interest in the field and inspired me to do great things.”
Modeled on our high school competitive scholarship programs, Junior Women in Engineering (JWIE) offered an introduction to many engineering disciplines. Twenty students explored engineering through hands-on activities like testing water quality, working with an i-Robot, building balsa wood gliders, and designing model prosthetic legs. They explored how engineers impact the world around them.

JWIE students also got a taste of college life by living in a residence hall throughout the week. Evening activities enhanced the experience which, for some, was the first time living away from home.

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company

100% of participants felt more likely to have a career in engineering after attending JWIE

95% of participants would recommend JWIE to others

95% of participants indicated having an interest in engineering after attending JWIE

75% of participants consider themselves “very informed” or “extremely informed” regarding the variety of career options available in engineering

“It’s hard to fit in at my school, but everyone here was just like me!”

“This program taught me how to see things in a different way, how to collaborate, and the importance of asking questions. It changed my life.”

DEMOGRAPHICS

Grade Level Fall 2017
- 40% 7th
- 60% 8th

Geographic Distribution
- 4 Other USA
- 7 Midwest (non Michigan)
- 9 Michigan

Ethnicity
- 85% Caucasian
- 5% Asian American
- 5% Native American
- 5% Hispanic/Latino

100% of participants felt more likely to have a career in engineering after attending JWIE

95% of participants would recommend JWIE to others

95% of participants indicated having an interest in engineering after attending JWIE

75% of participants consider themselves “very informed” or “extremely informed” regarding the variety of career options available in engineering

“It’s hard to fit in at my school, but everyone here was just like me!”

“This program taught me how to see things in a different way, how to collaborate, and the importance of asking questions. It changed my life.”

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company

20 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS
Mind Trekkers

Mind Trekkers is Michigan Tech’s K-12 outreach initiative. With its traveling roadshow, the group brings the excitement of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) directly to young students. Mind Trekkers attends expos and events throughout the nation to showcase engaging, hands-on experiments and activities.

Undergraduate and graduate student volunteers serve as a pipeline, connecting thousands of prospective students to the Michigan Tech family while enjoying one-of-a-kind opportunities and experiences.

Mind Trekkers inspires our next generation of leaders to seek answers, get excited, and question the traditional boundaries of STEM education.

“Mind Trekkers inspired me to go to college and pursue a career in STEM. I want to make a difference in the world.”

mindtrekkers.mtu.edu
FACEBOOK facebook.com/MindTrekkers
TWITTER twitter.com/mindtrekkers
FLICKR flickr.com/photos/michigantechyp
YOUTUBE youtube.com/c/MichiganTechCPCO
2017 RECAP

14 events
8 states including Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and California
11,162 miles
166,600 people reached
151 traveling Mind Trekker volunteers
30 different majors

2017 Events
NWTC Science & Engineering Festival—Green Bay, WI
Adventures in STEM Science & Engineering Festival—Houston, TX
iMAGINE Upstate STEAM Fest—Greenville, SC
FIRST Robotics Global Finals—Houston, TX
Lockheed Martin Family Day—Bethesda, MD
Cirque Mechanics—Houghton, MI
Philadelphia Science & Engineering Festival—Philadelphia, PA
Northeast Wisconsin Blitz—Green Bay, WI
Boy Scouts’ 50th Anniversary—Munising, MI
Destination Imagination Global Finals—Knoxville, TN
Beijing Science and Engineering Festival with USA Science and Engineering Festival—Beijing, China
Southeast Michigan Science & Engineering Festival—Livonia, MI
Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival—Midland, MI
Bay Area Science Festival—San Francisco, CA

“The volunteers were so genuinely happy and excited about the future. They shared that enthusiasm with everyone in the room.”

“As a young woman, seeing other women in STEM really inspired me.”

LIGHT THE SPARK. KEEP IT BURNING.

88% are likely to repeat a demonstration and share demos with others
94% agree this event offered activities/resources not normally provided in their classrooms
97% felt the event format supported learning and engagement
93% intend to do a Mind Trekkers demonstration in their classroom and share a demo with another teacher
67% of students think differently about what scientists and engineers do
76% of students are more interested in attending college
College Access programs expose students from our community to the university world, promoting college attendance among students in the Keweenaw and across the Upper Peninsula. Initiatives include visiting a small group of students at their school, discussing financial aid, and bringing 240 middle school students to campus for a day.

GEAR UP

In 2017, the Michigan Tech GEAR UP (GU) cohort completed their sixth year of the program. Most of them graduated from high school and are now in their first year of post-secondary education. Some are engaged in a fifth-year Early College program, and will enter college or university next year. The MI GEAR UP grant will continue to serve students through 2017-18 (their first year of college).

GEAR UP services now include first-year student success seminars, study breaks, and access to events centered on diversity, inclusion, and access to education. There are approximately 100 students attending Michigan Tech who were part of a MI GEAR UP program. Those students are now considered the GEAR UP cohort.

87% of GU students feel they now know more about how to pursue future educational goals.
Women in Science and Engineering
On February 21, more than 240 seventh- and eighth-grade girls from the Western Upper Peninsula spent the day at Michigan Tech exploring the world of science and engineering. Participants completed STEM-themed activities, like creating a wood cell model, designing a pinball machine, and participating in an epidemic simulation. The students also heard from college student role models both in small groups and a panel discussion. The event was made possible by the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, the College of Engineering, and the College of Sciences and Arts.

Blizzard Bowl
On February 25 and October 28, the Michigan Tech Quiz Bowl Club once again partnered with the Center for Pre-College Outreach to offer quiz bowl tournaments for UP high school teams. Between the two tournaments, Blizzard Bowl welcomed more than 100 students from eight different school districts. Playing in teams of four, the students faced off over questions about history, literature, science, and pop culture. The round-robin tournament was moderated by Quiz Bowl Club members, some of whom played at a Blizzard Bowl tournament prior to attending Michigan Tech!

Family U
New this year, the Center for Pre-College Outreach partnered with Alumni Engagement to host Family U on August 2. Family U provided an opportunity for Michigan Tech alumni to bring their middle and high school students to campus for a day of family STEM activities. Together, families built miniature wind turbines with the Department of Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics, conducted fingerprint analysis with the Biological Sciences Department, metal-detected minerals with the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, and took on an “instant challenge” in The Alley Makerspace.

Hidden Figures
On April 4, campus departments came together to host a screening of the film Hidden Figures for more than 100 area high schoolers. Students participated in small-group discussions with Michigan Tech students, faculty, and staff before the film. The event was powered by Michigan Tech Film Board, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, the Department of Mathematical Sciences, the Department of Humanities, Pavlis Honors College, the Center for Pre-College Outreach, and the Panhellenic Council.

Lighthouse Learners
Lighthouse Learners is hosted at the Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium, and Keweenaw. Founded by Barbara and Paul Horton ’69, the program aims to make college a reality for its cohort of seven participants. Now entering their senior year, the Lighthouse Learners experience sessions centered on service learning, study skills, spirit life, and a connection to Michigan Tech. In 2016–17, the students began taking in-depth tours of campus departments of interest to them, took their SAT/ACT, and began exploring the college application process.
## A Look Ahead: 2018 Mind Trekkers

### February
- Charleston STEM Festival, **Charleston, SC**
- NWTC Science and Engineering Festival, **Green Bay, WI**

### March
- Passport to STEM! **Charlotte, NC**

### April
- Mind Trekkers at The Independence School, **Newark, DE**
- USA Science and Engineering Festival, **Washington DC**
- First Robotics World Championship, **Detroit, MI**
- iMAGINE Upstate STEAM Fest, **Greenville, SC**

### September
- NTC Wausau Science and Engineering Festival, **Wausau, WI**

### October
- DOW Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival, **University Center, MI**
- Southeast Michigan Science and Engineering Festival, **Livonia, MI**

### November
- Bay Area Science Festival, **San Francisco, CA**

[For more information, visit mindtrekkers.mtu.edu](http://mindtrekkers.mtu.edu)
Competitive Scholarship Programs
Offered to middle or high school students, depending on the program, from across the United States and around the World.

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<td>Women in Engineering</td>
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Join Us!

Want to make a difference in the lives of students?

• Sponsor scholarships
• Fund an exploration
• Guest speak during a program

Rachel Kloc
2012 Hemlock sponsored attendee of ESP and 2017 graduate of Michigan Tech.

“At Hemlock Semiconductor (HSC), we recognize the need to increase K-12 student interest in pursuing STEM related careers. To accomplish this goal, HSC needed a partner and chose Michigan Tech because of its outreach programs, professional staff, and engaged students. By participating in the 2017 Mind Trekkers event in Saginaw, Michigan, and providing Summer Youth Programs scholarships to Great Lakes Bay Region high school students, HSC helped increase the knowledge of STEM to more than 3,000 area students!”

– Terence D Robinson
S30/S130 OE Team Leader
Hemlock Semiconductor

• Sponsor a festival nationally or near you
• Fund a new demonstration
• Provide in-kind donation of equipment or supplies

“Bosch is committed to improving the community and preparing future leaders. Mind Trekkers is doing that through exciting STEM events and programming and we are proud to be a partner.”

– Brad McKenna
Robert Bosch LLC
Corporate Citizenship (RBNA/ADM-CS)
North America

For more information on sponsorship and engagement opportunities, please contact:
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906-487-2219 • cody@mtu.edu
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