

The Blackhawk Beacon

"Helping to shed some light onto the future"

\$1.50

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Making Energy Today and Making the Future Brighter for Tomorrow!

The kickoff of our annual Global Passport Project!

By: Kathryn Cek, Senior Reporter

Blackhawk High School - Do you own a pair of sunglasses? If not, then you'd better get some because the future of nuclear energy just got brighter! This morning students from Mr. Puskas' AP Environmental class met with engineers from First Energy to discuss their annual partnering project, Global Passport. The project aims to "connect students with real life problems and to find a solution", said Mr. Puskas.



The students spent the first half of the morning intently listening to presentations given by a few of the engineers. They covered topics such as, the Beaver Valley Power Station, the many different types of nuclear reactors, political sanctions on nuclear energy as well as nuclear meltdowns.

"Discussing nuclear meltdowns, like Chernobyl was my favorite part!", said junior Tristan Eisenbraun.

After taking a quick break and finishing up the presentations students then worked in teams to construct their own turbines out of straws, popsicle sticks, cardstock, masking tape and a balloon for power. "I personally was amazed at how different everyone's turbine designs were. It just goes to show you that there are many different answers for a single problem.", said First Energy engineer Nick.

After the winning turbine was chosen, both the students and engineers took a quick lunch break, during which they asked each other questions. I asked First Energy engineer Abdul, what it was like to work with Blackhawk students. He said "It's great! Even though I've never been here before, I love everyone's enthusiasm about the project. It's really cool to see how everyone is working to solve the same problem and how everyone can work together in order to find a solution". During this time the students and engineers had a little fun with each other as well.



I was sitting at a table with Abdul and we were exchanging each other's birthdays. It was really cool that we were able to spend some down time together and get to know each other better. I also asked him, his opinion on the political sanctions against nuclear energy. His response was "If we were able to unlock the fullest potential of nuclear energy then it would definitely be a better, cleaner and brighter future". The group then came back together to say a few final closing remarks. Both the students as well as the engineers thanked each other for such a great time and said that they couldn't wait to work with each other again in the future. The Global Passport project shows that students can work together with the community to find a solution to today's problems, as well as unlocking a better and brighter future.

