



Volume 1 Issue 4 March 20, 2009

GE Nela Park Hosts MC²STEM High School - *A best-in-class public-private partnership*

Relevant. Collaborative. Transformative. All are words used to describe STEM education. All take on greater meaning when used in the context of a public-private partnership. To that end, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, in partnership with GE Lighting and Industrial, along with other key partners, reached a milestone on the public-private partnership front on February 20, 2009- together they launched the nation's first ever STEM school set entirely on a corporate campus.

Relevant. Situated in East Cleveland, GE Nela Park has a long history of innovation and invention. It's only fitting that the nation's first industrial park, established nearly 100 years ago, serve as a the nation's first STEM-classroom setting for some 82 high-school freshmen. Students will learn from and interact with GE Lighting and Industrial employees and retirees who will serve as mentors and coaches. These professionals will lend their expertise in research, technology and engineering, marketing, finance, global product management, and human resources to transform the student learning experience through relevant, real-world application.

Further, the historical setting of GE Nela Park contrasts well with the state-of-the-art innovation offered by the school's newly renovated "Fab Lab." One of only two in Northern Ohio, the Fab Lab, modeled after MIT's Center for Bits and Atoms, allows students to marry computer science, traditional science, design and manufacturing. Simply put, the lab provides students with the relevant tools necessary to bring their ideas to life.

Collaborative. The public-private partnership that supports MC²STEM is built upon a strong, collaborative base, which includes some 50 organizations from K-12, higher education, and business that contributed to its design and launch. Leading partners include the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, GE Lighting and Industrial, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, and the Sherwick Fund. Major contributors include the Eaton Charitable Fund, Forest City Enterprises Charitable Foundation, Key Foundation and the Parker Hannifin Foundation. The Thomas H. White Foundation made the Fab Lab possible. This collaborative partnership demonstrates the



GE Lighting & Industrial President & CEO Michael Petras and Governor Ted Strickland observe student presentation

"Our investment in STEM education is one of the most essential investments we can make, not only for our students, but for the future of the State of Ohio. This investment will ensure that our students will have the skills that will enable them to compete in an increasingly competitive global environment."

Governor Ted Strickland
MC²STEM Grand Opening

power and impact of community involvement in education, setting a strong example for other regions across Ohio.

Transformative. To maximize its reach and spread impact beyond its four walls, MC²STEM is a key partner in the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN). Through the OSLN, the school's research, learnings, and best practices will be shared with all of Ohio's STEM schools and beyond, ultimately transforming Ohio's broader education system. And MC²STEM is just the first of eight unique H.B. 119 STEM schools to open in the State of Ohio.

MC²STEM High School is but one example of how STEM education is capitalizing on public-private partnerships to make learning relevant, collaborative and transformative for the benefit of our youngsters. In our next edition, we will introduce you to some of the state's K-8 STEM Programs of Excellence - programs that are strengthening STEM education at the elementary and middle school-levels.

MC²STEM High School Facts...

- MC²STEM High School, which opened in August 2008, is the first of eight H.B. 119 STEM schools to open in the state.
- The school is part of the New and Innovative Schools Office within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.
- Initially housed in the Great Lakes Science Center, the school moved to its home on GE Nela Park's campus in February 2009.
- In the first two years, ninth and tenth grade students will focus on sustainability and renewable energy.
- The school is built around a year-long calendar. Students attend classes for 10 weeks and have a 3-week break - thus repeating this pattern four times throughout the year.
- MC²STEM High School is one of two new STEM schools that opened in Cleveland in fall 2008. Design Lab Early College High School is a STEM school that focuses on industrial design and technology.



CMSD CEO Dr. Eugene Sanders speaks at press conference

"I think it's wonderful for these youngsters to get the kind of education they will need in order to compete in this new world that we find ourselves in.... We need more of this in the State of Ohio, we need more of this in America."

Senator George Voinovich
MC²STEM Grand Opening



Senator George Voinovich talks with students

For more information, contact the **Ohio Business Alliance for Higher Education and the Economy**

(a 501(c)(3) affiliate of the Ohio Business Roundtable)

Shaun Yoder, Executive Director, (phone) 614-228-6084 (email) syoder@ohiobahee.com

Angela Gresser, Policy Analyst, (phone) 614-228-6084 (email) agresser@ohiobahee.com

Or visit the Ohio STEM Learning Network's website: www.OSLN.org