

Friday, May 26, 2017

OU receives \$10,000 AT&T grant to support K-12 STEM outreach workshops

The Oakland University Foundation has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the AT&T Aspire Program.

The grant is specifically targeted to support K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Outreach Workshops for high school students offered by the **Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE)** Department and the **Pawley Lean Institute** at Oakland University.

“Through AT&T Aspire, we are investing in students today – at home, in the classroom, at work – to prepare them for success tomorrow,” said Jan Mallon, contributions manager for AT&T. “We see tremendous value in OU’s program and are pleased to award a contribution to the Oakland University Foundation.”

The K-12 STEM Outreach Workshops promote Industrial and Systems Engineering and Lean Learning by introducing ISE as a field of study to high school students from both a college and career perspective. They are offered during normal school hours and conducted in the OU Engineering Center.

“Led by Bill Edwards and other ISE faculty, visiting high school students get to conduct hands-on projects in Lean and Product Lifecycle Management while working with our ISE students and alumni,” said **Robert Van Til**, Ph.D., chair and Pawley professor of lean studies in the ISE Department.

There are multiple components to each session, including:

- Hands on, tool orientation
- Lean/Continuous Improvement exercises
- Ergonomics using simulation tools
- Product Lifecycle Management
- Manufacturing Systems Simulation

“This grant can be used to support student expenses as we expand to multiple high schools in Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne County,” said **Dennis Wade**, director of the Pawley Lean Institute. “In particular, the exposure to ISE will spark interest in the STEM fields of study for both education and potential careers within engineering, and we thank AT&T for their support.”

According to Wade, the \$10,000 grant is actually the second grant from AT&T. The first grant, also for \$10,000, was received in December 2015.

“Supporting efforts like this are important for students as they prepare for a career but are also important to employers, like AT&T, as we look to find and hire well-trained people,” said Mathew Resch, director of public affairs for AT&T Michigan.

For more information about the Pawley Lean Institute, visit www.oakland.edu/lean. To learn more about ISE, visit www.oakland.edu/ise.



Led by Bill Edwards, Ph.D., and other ISE faculty, visiting high school students get to conduct hands-on projects in Lean and Product Lifecycle Management while working with ISE students and alumni.