

Wednesday, Nov 18, 2015

AT&T grant supports High School Student Workshops program at Oakland University

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

The grant is specifically targeted to support High School Student Workshops supported by the Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISE) Department and the Pawley Lean Institute (PLI) at Oakland University.

AT&T Michigan President, James Murray commented, "As a global communications company, we know firsthand the need for talented graduates in the STEM fields. Programs like the High School Student Workshop help expose students to more than just technical learning—they also open up dynamic career pathways that benefit us all."

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

Michigan State Senator, Marty Knollenberg attended the check presentation ceremony and added,

"Research shows the earlier we connect young learners with exciting, hands-on content in the STEM fields, the more likely they are to choose these areas of study later on. Kudos to Oakland University and AT&T for making advanced learning opportunities available to so many high school students in our region."

Oakland's High School Student Workshops program promotes ISE and Lean Learning as it introduces ISE as a field of study to high school students from both a college degree and career perspective. The program consists of three visits from high school classes to the ISE department as a partnership program with the PLI at OU.

The project is targeted at high schools in the Oakland County/Macomb County area and will reach over 100 high school students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The project is during normal school hours and will be conducted during the day.

There are multiple components to the sessions held at OU including:

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

According to Dr. Robert Van Til, ISE Chair and Pawley Professor of Lean Studies, "We have very successfully piloted this program over the past two years with students from Seaholm High School. A unique feature is that our ISE students assist in both developing materials for sessions as well as taking part in instructing them."

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Left to right - Lori Doughty, AT&T Regional Director of External Affairs; Marty Knollenberg, State Senator 13th District, Jon Margerum-Leys, Dean, School of Education and Human Services; Dennis Wade, Pawley Lean Institute Director; Bil Edwards, Visiting Professor, School of Engineering & Computer Science; and Gre Clark, AT&T Regional Vice President