

**Media Release**

## **ESCO Engineers Team Up with Local Students**

**The Business Education Compact (BEC) partners with Oregon businesses for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Engineers Month.**



Portland, Ore. – In February and March, ESCO Corporation participated in the Business Education Compact's 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Engineers Month as part of the company's commitment to education and the development of future engineering professionals.

ESCO Engineering Manager Fritz Goeth said: "We have an amazing team of engineers at ESCO. Solving problems and sharing experiences and lessons learned add to the inventive process at ESCO and that's why we enjoy working with students – sharing the excitement we feel when we're able to solve complex

challenges by applying engineering principles and skills."

This year, ESCO engineers visited students at St. Helens High School, Portland's Cleveland High School and Truman Elementary School in Vancouver, Washington.

Greg Kulander, Business Education Compact Director, said: "Studies show children are much more motivated to learn when they understand the relevance of classroom instruction to their daily lives and/or future career. Exciting students about math and science and encouraging them to excel in those studies are crucial to the future economic well-being of our society."

### **Real Life Experience in Engineering**

On February 26, ESCO Product Manager Jack Rickey presented to Ms. Whittington's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and Ms. Thompson's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Vancouver, Washington's Truman Elementary School, where students learned about energy in a hands-on experiment demonstrating potential and kinetic energy with students designing, building and testing roller coasters built from foam tubing, tape and toothpicks (photo above). Rickey said: "A roller coaster is a great example of kinetic and potential energy, and the kids get excited about building their own small-scale roller coasters." Rickey has a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering (BSME) degree from the University of Portland.

MORE

ESCO Corporation ([www.escocorp.com](http://www.escocorp.com)) is a leading manufacturer of technically-rich metal wearparts and components for mining, construction, power generation and aerospace applications. Throughout the world, our employees have made ESCO the customer's choice for quality, value and speed. For nearly a century, ESCO has delivered cutting-edge products, responsive service and field-tested solutions to customers' toughest problems.

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On February 11, ESCO Lead Engineer Severn Durand presented to three of Ms. Khvilivitzky's Precalculus classes, grades 10-12. Many of these students are in the process of making career decisions, and Durand spoke with them about what prompted him to pursue the engineering profession and the steps required to pursue this career path. To give the students a taste of a real life engineering challenge and ESCO's mining equipment business, Durand challenged the students with a bucket design problem. The winning group was awarded bragging rights for the best bucket design. Durand has a BSME from Oregon State University.



On March 12, ESCO's Fran Erickson met with two St. Helens High School classes, discussing her responsibilities as the company's Environmental Engineer and her education and professional background. Erickson then worked with the students on two exercises on structural mechanics – first using cardboard tubes and books (structural column support) and then using balloons and tape (left) to build the tallest, self-supporting structure that could withstand stresses. Erickson said: "We deducted inches for safety violations (e.g. standing on chairs or desks), and teams with unused resources were rewarded for minimizing waste." The balloon structures were then subject to "wind" and "earthquake" conditions to show how "we do not

always pick the design or the materials we work with, or the days of construction – so we need to be prepared. Safety is a priority, and we should not waste valuable resources." Erickson has an Environmental Engineering degree from Montana State University's College of Engineering.

### **About the Business Education Compact**

Throughout its 24-year history, the BEC has been making learning real by connecting the classroom and workplace through innovative, hands-on experiences such as student and teacher internships; helping students realize how studying science, math and technology can translate into exciting career opportunities; forging education and business partnerships and advocating for quality education in Oregon. Learn more about the BEC at [www.becpdx.org](http://www.becpdx.org).

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