



Sikorsky Hosts UTC Engineering Ambassadors Event



Sikorsky hosted the second gathering of the UTC Engineering Ambassadors with college students from the University of Connecticut, Pennsylvania State University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

The UTC Program, modeled after one created at [Penn State](#), was started by Pratt & Whitney Engineering. The university students travel to area middle and high schools to teach engineering lessons. The goal is to accelerate the development of leadership and communication skills of engineering students, while working to inspire a younger, diversified audience to explore the role of engineering in society.

The ambassadors also gave presentations at Sikorsky about their local student activities.

Penn State has 65 engineering ambassadors, which has grown from only 12 members 4 years ago. The ambassadors hold weekly campus talks and have increased their involvement in community science outreach events. Recently, they were awarded an IBM/IEEE grant to design a new outreach activity using robots.

The Rensselaer Engineering Ambassadors (EAs) are an assembly of highly motivated students focused on inspiring a younger audience to explore the role of engineers in society. The ambassadors that were present at the meeting discussed how they encourage target audiences to pursue STEM fields through interactive visits, improving their communication skills through training and experience and how they are developing leadership skills to inspire the next generation of leaders. "Thank you for putting together such a great weekend for all the UTC Ambassadors. We had an amazing time at Sikorsky (with the tour and workshop) and later that evening at the networking dinner. We appreciate all the time and work you put in to make it such a fantastic weekend. We are all very excited to begin our internships/full time jobs with UTC this summer," said RPI student Maranda Wong.

WPI focuses on electrical, mechanical and aerospace engineering and holds middle school tours on campus. They also participated in "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day" as part of National Engineers Week. "We have been given a great opportunity to develop our communication and leadership skills. The program has given us valuable real world experience," said WPI student Victoria Stratton, who will be interning at P&W this summer.

UConn ambassadors spoke about their focus on continuing their successes and increasing their impact in the community. UConn Engineering Ambassadors have continued to support on and off-campus programs and events including Discovery Academy, Science Bowl, National Engineers Week and middle school activity days and after-school club support. Their efforts have paid off; this year they have reached out to more than 10,000 students.

The WPI Engineering Ambassadors discussed how their program has progressed at an astounding rate over the past year. The 18 WPI UTC Engineering Ambassadors hosted the UTC EA Workshop last September with over 80 participants from Penn State, UConn, and RPI. The WPI EAs also honed their presentation skills in the week-long advanced Communications Workshop they planned last October. They also spoke about how they have greatly expanded their outreach efforts and community connections and partnered with the Career Development Center to host "UTC Day."

The university students, many of whom will soon return to UTC's divisions as interns, also took tours of Sikorsky including Final Assembly, the Military Aircraft Hanger, Blades and Ground Test facilities and piloted the UH-60MU flight simulator. A special thank you to all the engineers who helped facilitate the plant tour. The UTC Engineering Ambassadors ended the day-long

event with a networking reception at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford attended by UTC's employees, many of whom were Sikorsky engineers and Dr. J. Michael McQuade, UTC's senior vice president of Science and Technology.