Testimonials

Hands-on Learning

"The SNAME project was an excellent example of project based learning that had many STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) related aspects which helped ATC students realize CAD principles within the marine design/build real world context. The fact students were engaged in not only product design but also able to view its completion and then perform test operations was a **phenomenal learning experience**. Visiting Virginia Beach City Public School administrators were quite impressed with the STEM math engineering concepts involved in the SNAME project. The ATC students were impressed with the professional attention and detail found in the design feedback and eventual prototype construction. Newfound **passion and excitement** for the marine industry could be seen in the ATC students. This is further evidenced by the fact that we have full enrollment in our upcoming Marine Design Engineering course that will be offered for the first time at the ATC in the fall of 2008. Career and Technical Education educators have known for quite some time the benefits of experiential, hands-on learning. The SNAME project both **enriched and extended** the CAD curriculum well beyond what we thought at the ATC would be possible."

Dr. Patrick Konopnicki
Director of Technical and Career Education
Virginia Beach City Public Schools Advanced Technology Center

Rewarding Results

"The SNAME Boat Design competition is literally the toughest, but **most rewarding competition** that I have ever entered students into. When I read over the description of the competition, I decided to make it a required culminating project for my Introduction to Engineering classes. It taught and required the design process, team work, problem solving, and project/time management. It also required rigorous calculations such as stability, center of gravity, buoyancy, and rudder area. They also had to try calculations for multiple iterations of their designs. Among my two sections of Intro to Engineering we formed 11 teams. **All eleven of my teams finished this project** and I am extremely proud of them for that. There were times during the process of this project that I questioned my ethics as a teacher for requiring such a tough project. To have two teams win awards and a third have their boat design built and eventually win second in the race was very gratifying to my students and me. We will be using the SNAME Boat Design Competition as the culminating project again for my Pre-Engineering classes and I would like to encourage other Pre-Engineering teachers to do the same."

Tom Nuckols
Technology Education
Jamestown High School
Williamsburg – James City County

Capturing Interests

"The Boat Design Competition was **a great success** for our York High School team. The competition guidelines complimented and in some cases exceeded my student's classroom requirements. The students applied their knowledge of math, science, design and engineering to develop their boat. This competition was unlike many others in that our design was taken from lines on paper to sheets of steel which was built by the largest shipyard in the country. This competition captured the student's interests and allowed them to compete with other high school students across the state. The students demonstrated high competitiveness, teamwork and work ethic throughout the entire competition. We were so impressed after the first year, 2nd place finish, that we entered again this year and were awarded a first place finish. This **experience will remain with the students** well after their high school years. Our school, principal, superintendent and local newspaper recognized our achievement and next year we plan to double the number of teams. I'd highly recommend this competition to any school who is looking to **challenge their students** in science, technology, engineering or mathematics."

John Hammons
Technical Instructor
York High School
Yorktown, Virginia

Positive Mentorship

"As a young professional in the industry, it is hard to comprehend the **value of mentorship**. It is a term that is usually thrown around but rarely is its true meaning unraveled. Life is a collection on ones experiences, some bad and some good. These experiences make us who we are. It is usually realized later in one's career, looking back and realizing those individuals who made a difference in their life. Having the opportunity to comprehend the meaning early in life can have a **positive impact** on a young persons career. Mentors possess wisdom and experience that can serve as examples to young individuals who are willing to learn and absorb this knowledge. This competition serves as an example of effective mentoring and the positive influence it can have to both the mentor and the mentee. For me, this **nurturing relationship** which continues today has been invaluable. I hope other young professionals will benefit likewise by other senior professionals taking advantage of any opportunity to mentor others."

Chris Skiba
Boat Design Competition Team Captain 2008, 2009
Design Engineer
Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding- Newport News