



Connects students, parents and educators to career opportunities through business partnerships, training and resources.

Teachers in the Workplace Course Helps Midlands Educators Explore New Careers

Ten Midlands educators took a break from summer vacation to return to work. Not to the classroom, but to local businesses and industries to gain hands-on experience in fields such as manufacturing, healthcare, electricity production and business services. This return to work was part of **MEBA's Teachers in the Workplace** summer graduate course.



Teachers in the Workplace course participants (front row l to r): Stacey Feaster; JacQuie Parmlee-Bates; Geri Goodwin; Lisa Call; Trisha Herrington. (back row l to r): Charmane Freeman-Greene; Murray Smith; Steve Vincent; Chris Carver; Eric Cockrell; Tracy O'Connor.

The three-hour course, sponsored by **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, is designed to expose educators to the world of business and to show them how to connect work-based learning experiences to school-based learning. Participating educators each spent 40 hours in a challenging position in a local business or industry to learn about the types of skills their students need to be successful in that particular field. The educators can then bring their experience and knowledge of related job skills back to their classrooms and schools, helping to provide a more seamless connection between school and work.



JacQuie Parmlee-Bates (center) with Trey Smoak and Christine DeGood from Recruiting Solutions.

Businesses participating as hosts for this year's course participants included: **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative; CMC Steel of South Carolina; Lexington Medical Center; Palmetto Health; Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals; Recruiting Solutions; Siemens Diesel Systems Technology; South Carolina Electric & Gas - Wateree Station; and Total Comfort, Inc.**

JacQuie Parmlee-Bates spends the school year teaching social studies to students at **Richland One's Middle College**, but she spent the past week working at **Recruiting Solutions**. Parmlee-Bates learned how the company works with local businesses to determine hiring needs and locate qualified employees. "One of the most beneficial things I learned from the job experience is the importance of good

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interview skills,” says Parmlee-Bates. “Now, in order to make sure my students are prepared , I plan to treat class presentations like a job interview in order for my students to develop strong public speaking skills and a professionalism.”



Trisha Herrington (center) with Fred Millen and Jean Tate of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Trisha Herrington, who teaches French at **Blythewood Middle School in Richland School District Two**, spent the week at **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.** learning about the company's commitment to customer service and the daily

responsibilities of its front line employees - customer service representatives. Herrington also was able to spend a great deal of time with **Fred Millen**, MCEC's Human Resource Manager, learning about the various jobs available and the types of candidates the company looks to hire.

Herrington especially enjoyed shadowing the engineering staff, learning about the automated meter-reading system, and working directly with **Peggy Dantzler**, Loss Control Supervisor. "Before this experience I didn't have any idea what a Lost Controller did or the level of responsibility the position carries," explains Herrington. "To see how Peggy had to respond to two emergencies at the same time gave me a new perspective on what it takes to have her job and the multitude of skills needed to keep everything running smoothly.

Stacey Feaster, an adult educator with **Fairfield County Schools**, and **Murray Smith**, an assistant principal school with **Dent Middle School in Richland School District Two**, spent the week at **Siemens Diesel Systems Technology**. In addition to learning about the company's history and its work, Feaster and Smith learned about the skills and qualities Siemens looks for when hir-



From l to r: Stacey Feaster; Ron Ellis of Siemens Diesel Systems Technology; and Murray Smith.

Upcoming Events

SC Education & Business Summit

June 24 - 28, 2007
Carolina First Center
Greenville, SC

Fairfield Educators Field Study

August 15, 2007
8:30 am - 3:30 pm
**To register, please visit
www.mebasc.com.*

MEBA Orientation

August 31, 2007
8:30 - 10:00 am
Midlands Technical College
Northeast Campus

Engineering & Industrial

Technology Career Day
October 8, 2007
8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus

Healthcare Career Day

October 9, 2007
8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Midlands Technical College
Airport Campus

ing new employees.

"I saw first-hand how Siemens' employees use applied mathematics and mechanics every day in their careers," explains Feaster. "That will give me credibility with my students and help me to better prepare them for the world of work."

Smith learned that most of Siemens employees who lose their jobs do so as a result of simply not coming to work. "That is something real we can take back to our students," says Smith. "Life lessons - punctuality, responsibility and dependability."

Steve Vincent, an engineering and fire management instructor at **Heyward Career and Technology Center** in **Richland School District One**, gained hands-on experience at **CMC Steel of South Carolina**. Outfitted in steel-toe boots, a hard hat and protective glasses, Vincent spent every day learning about the steel making process from start to finish - from the scrap yard to the

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Thank you to our
Teachers in the Workplace
business partners for 2007:

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
Sponsoring Partner

CMC Steel of South Carolina
Lexington Medical Center
Palmetto Health
Recruiting Solutions
SCE&G - Wateree Station
Siemens Diesel Systems Technology
Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals
Total Comfort, Inc.

Teachers in the Workplace: The Business Perspective



Tracy O'Connor at Lexington Medical Center's Urgent Care facility in Chapin.

You've read why **MEBA's Teachers in the Workplace** summer course is so beneficial to the educators who participate, but what do businesses have to gain from their involvement? A great deal, according to **Kama Staton**, Workforce Development Coordinator for **Lexington Medical Center**.

"Teachers in the Workplace allows our educators to spend a week in the real world experiencing the hard and soft skills needed for our future workforce to be successful in their career endeavors. By sponsoring an educator each year, this vital information goes back into the classroom to our students to prepare for our healthcare career needs," explains Staton. "The business world is ever-changing. The healthcare industry, in particular, is fast-paced, high tech and in great need of qualified workers. That is why it is so important to Lexington Medical Center to participate in programs such as Teachers in the

Workplace in order to better connect business with the education behind classroom walls."

Fred Millen, Human Resource Manager for **Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, agrees. "Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative participates in the Teacher in the Workplace program because of the great benefits for our company, our employees, and teachers in our community. It is a win-win program that impacts not just the teacher who participates, but every student that teacher touches."



Steve Vincent (center) with Derick Burrell and Allen White from CMC Steel of South Carolina.

chemical lab to the final product. What most impressed Vincent about the experience, however, was the company's commitment to safety and to its employees.

"Everywhere you turn you see signs with the letters 'ORO,'" says Vincent. "It stands for Others Reminding Others, and

it's the company's way of encouraging everyone to always think about safety first and to work together, remind each other, in order to keep everyone safe."

CMC Steel of South Carolina is also committed to its employees, offering a strong benefits package, promoting from within and encouraging individual development and growth. The company is also committed to the community and to education and has developed a booklet, The Steel School, which can be used as a resource for educators and students to learn more about the steel making process and careers available.

Like CMC Steel of South Carolina all of the participating businesses can serve as great resources for Midlands educators and students. Many businesses will provide guided tours of a facility for educators and students, job shadowing opportunities and make executives and employees available to visit schools to speak with students about the company, their job, and the necessary skills and training.

At the end of the week, even though participants worked at different sites and learned different skills, all ten participants were in agreement about one thing - what they learned through Teachers in the Workplace will significantly enhance their experience as educators. The course will help bring relevance to the conversations they have with their students, add content to their lesson plans, and offer new resources in the form of field trips and speakers to their students.

"I am so grateful to MEBA for the opportunity to participate in the Teachers in the Workplace summer course," says Stacey Feaster. "I am excited about what I have learned and how I can use it. MEBA has done another great job of helping education and business connect."

Teachers in the Workplace Course Participants Share What They Learned

Not only are Teachers in the Workplace course participants able to learn from their own hands-on job experience, but they also learn from the



Chris Carver, who spent the week at SCE&G Wateree Station, shares what he learned with his fellow classmates.

experiences of each other.

On Tuesday, June 12, 2007, the ten participating Midlands educators came together to present on their experiences, ask questions of each other and share helpful information. This sharing of information allows the course participants to benefit not only from their own experience at a local business or industry but also from the experiences of their fellow classmates.

"It's a great way for these educators to gain information from several industries and related careers and to garner even more information and business contacts that they can take back to their schools and classrooms," explains **Lisa Call**, MEBA's Interim Director, Workforce Development Coordinator and Career Specialist. "As a result, the educators complete the course with a wealth of information about several industries and careers that will help bring relevance to their curriculum and educational activities."

2007 Teachers in the Workplace Summer Course: Photo Gallery



Eric Cockrell of Brookland-Cayce High School works at Palmetto Health.



Charmane Freeman-Greene of Heyward Career and Technology Center tries out some equipment with Liz Navarrete, a physical therapist at Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals.



Geri Goodwin of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School learns from Buddy Smith of Total Comfort, Inc.



Tracy O'Connor and Pam Butler, radiology technician, at Lexington Medical Center.



Murray Smith and Stacey Feaster work at Siemens Diesel Systems Technology.



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EConnections is an electronic publication of Midlands Education and Business Alliance. For more information, please contact Ashley Thomas at ashleythomas@mebasc.com.

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