

# DEMEEP Takes Part in 2002 Tech Summit

## Program Expands to Promote Tech Careers

By John Barone and Kim Kilby

**H**ow can you teach ninth graders that Delaware is home to some of the most interesting high-tech industries in the nation? And how do you introduce students to the many opportunities within these fields?

In its third year of operation, Tech Summit introduced ninth graders to a wide range of jobs available right here in Delaware in the growing technology industry. Over 5,500 ninth graders from Delaware schools converged at the First USA Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington and Delaware Technical & Community College's Owens Campus in Georgetown for an experience designed to educate and excite students about careers in technology.

The Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership (DEMEEP) attended both events (April 18 and 19 in Wilmington and May 2 in Georgetown) to introduce students to the wide range of manufacturing career opportunities throughout the state. Local business professionals from a variety of industries

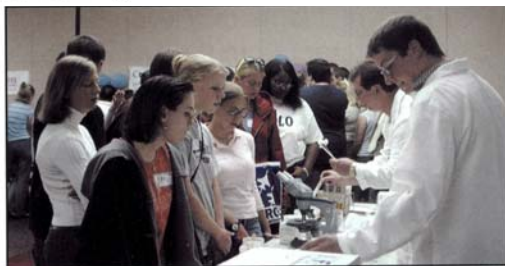
and careers were represented including: manufacturing, space/aeronautics, information technology/financial services, agribusiness/biotechnology/life sciences, health care, communications/publishing and graphic arts.

There are a tremendous number of opportunities just



Ninth graders from all over the state attended the 2002 Tech Summit at the First USA Riverfront Arts Center in Wilmington and Delaware Technical & Community College's Owens Campus in Georgetown.

waiting to be explored, points out the DEMEEP's John Barone. "Here in Delaware you can write software, build computers and medical analytical devices, make every space suit NASA ever sent into outer space, or design high-tech metal matrix composites that do everything from stopping bullets to stopping cars (in the braking sys-



tems). Whatever these students are looking to do, it can probably be done here in Delaware."

The event included hands-on activities and demonstrations that allowed students the opportunity to get a "birds-eye" view of technology at work. Tech Summit is a powerful example of the dynamic learning that can occur when the business community comes together with schools—connecting academics and work. Exhibitors provided examples of how math, science and communication skills are used in their everyday work routines, so students make the connections back into the classroom.

About 58,600 Delaware men and women make their living in manufacturing, and employers continue to report to the DEMEEP a growing need for qualified workers in

the manufacturing industry. However, fewer students are pursuing careers in the manufacturing and machining fields. With the help of local manufacturers and other business volunteers, this event provided a great opportunity to introduce Delaware's future work force to a variety of interesting career opportunities that exist for them in the manufacturing sector. These career choices can offer employees excellent salaries, benefits and training that enable them to advance professionally.

For more information about how your organization can get involved in next year's Tech Summit, contact Kim Kilby at (302) 855-5906 or [kkilby@demep.org](mailto:kkilby@demep.org).

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