



Making Bridges & Buildings Stand – An Exciting Visit by Students to Forell/Elsesser, Inc.



Most often high school students are not aware of exactly what might be involved in pursuing a career in engineering. Pathways For Kids wanted to expose students to the wonderful possibilities in the area of engineering, and we arranged a visit to Forell/Elsesser, Inc. — a structural engineering company — on Thursday, April 30, 2015. Students from Flex Academy and the

CARE program attended this field trip. Ms. Carolynn Smith, an Associate of Forell/Elsesser, Inc., was our sponsor for the visit. She made sure that our students had a rewarding learning experience. When we all arrived in the lobby, we received a very warm welcome by Ms. Smith and her staff. The presenters shared many of their educational training and personal experiences.

Ms. Simin Naaseh, President and CEO helped to make our field trip possible. We also want to thank the staff members for their participation during our visit. The presenters: Christopher Tung, Dwight Evans, Yousif, Mei Kuen Liu and Keith Chung were informative and dedicated to serving the needs of

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Engineering . . .

the students. The presentations, the personal one-on-one conversations and the questions/answers session captured the students' attention and motivated them to actively participate.

The presenters spoke at length about the importance of structural engineering in building bridges and buildings that are able to withstand the erratic shaking of powerful earthquakes. Such a discussion helped students to understand just what being a structural engineer entailed. Students were fascinated to hear about the equipment, materials and building techniques it takes to make buildings and bridges safe during devastating earthquakes and other natural disasters.

The presenters were most accommodating to our students and staff. Likely, the staff members were polite and received the students with warm greetings. All of these were greatly appreciated with the wonderful lunch that was served.

The staff was extremely supportive in helping us expose the underserved students to various careers in engineering. This was indeed a great visit.



Students listen to information about retro-fitting buildings and bridges, how structural engineer problem solve; students learn just what type of work structural engineer do.



Presenter Christopher Tung



Presenter Dwight Evans



Talk The Talk to Walk The Walk!

Benjamin Ng (student)

Hello, my name is *Benjamin Ng*, and I am a student attending *San Francisco Flex Academy*. We participate in field trips that are held by *Pathway for Kids*. I have attended two trips so far and both were organized well. These field trips help students discover and experience job careers that may interest them. The most recent one I attended was to *The W Hotel*. I had a splendid time listening to the hosts who gave out plenty of delicious food and information about the hospitality industry. I was very interested, and now I am open to discovering a new major called *Human Resources*. The information given from the many wonderful hosts and hostesses gave me a well informed and enjoyable experience to add to my list of interesting majors and careers. I would like to thank the *W Hotel* and *Pathways for Kids* for hosting and providing such wonderful opportunities to the community.

Natalie Rauda (student)

A few months ago my school (*San Francisco Flex Academy*) took a group of students to a firehouse. Anyone who was interested was able to sign up. I was interested in the fast-paced style of firefighters. We were taken to the headquarters and introduced to several experienced firefighters/emergency workers. They gave use the opportunity to ask questions. After a few questions and answers the interviewers were given the chance to speak about their backgrounds. What I really remembered was the emergency worker. She had been dealt a difficult set of cards shortly after finishing high school. It was very inspiring to hear how she applied

herself so suddenly in order to get herself out of that tough situation. Along with this she expanded on her training (going through the process to become an EMT).

Later we went to the actual firehouse. The firefighters that greeted us were very kind. There was a large sense of community that I really enjoyed seeing. They pulled out two trucks. One held water and the other held medical and other emergency equipment. I learned about the many different functions and what they were used for. By the end of the trip I felt much more aware of what firefighters did and that it all wasn't just *fast-paced*. The EMT had me highly interested in emergency work and more recently has given me the drive to take courses over the summer. I'll be taking anatomy.

Steven Quincy O'ibel (student)

Field trip: Price Waterhouse Coopers

I was able to learning the difference between a Bachelors' and Masters' degree. I was able to learn how I can set in motion the steps of what I want to be.

D'annii Williams (student)

Field trip: Mass Mutual Financial

I learned that if you want to be successful, you have to plan it out day by day.

Sara Brooks (student)

Field trip: Stacks Restaurant

I learned that you need to work your way up to a certain position, but it depends on how badly you want it.

Bre'Jon Jackson (student)

Field trip: Price Waterhouse Coopers

I liked everything about the field

trip. I learned that when I speak to someone, I should stand up when I address them.

Marsha Mills (student)

Field trip: Price Waterhouse Coopers

I liked that the presenters informed us about how much other jobs pay. I learned that the longer I stay in school, the more degrees I earn, the more money I will make.

Chris Tung, Engineer — 4 months with Forell/Elsesser Company

I am a Structural Engineer. I design buildings and create from building skeletons; Beams, Columns & the Foundation to ensure safety. Graduate UCB Berkeley undergraduate and graduate. My first job was at a tea store; Drink Maker blending smoothies. Advise to students, talk to your resources, Counselor, Mentor, people you feel comfortable talking with. You may not know at the moment but it's putting yourself out there over and over again.

Dwight Evans, Structural Engineer — 9 years with Forell/Elsesser Company

My inspiration was my father. He studied architecture and designed houses. When I was young, I played with his drafting tools as toys. I love to draw. I enjoyed math and was not intimidated by it. After high school, I was not sure I wanted to attend college, but I applied anyway.

My advice to students is that you can do anything you put your mind to when you apply the effort. You may be good at something, but you have to have a work ethic and it helps!