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More Than 700 People Attended NEW 200 Education Foundation's First STEM Expo

More than 700 students, parents, and other community members attended the first STEM Expo which took place at Hubble Middle School on January 28. Designed to provide elementary and middle school students the opportunity to participate in hands-on experiments and observe science, math, and technology-based demonstrations, the expo sold out quickly. Plans are already being discussed to expand the 2017 event to accommodate even more students and their families.

The expo raised more than \$5,000 during the event through sponsorships (GCA Services Group, Foresters Financial, and Wheaton Bank & Trust), individual donations, and raffle sales. The proceeds will enable NEW 200 to provide additional STEM materials and resources for District 200 classrooms. STEM initiatives for this school year include funding Support Our Students Teacher Grants that bring STEM into the classroom and providing VEX Robotics kits for 8th graders at all four of the district's middle schools through Project Lead the Ways Gateway to Automation and Robotics classes. An acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education, STEM is characterized by its interdisciplinary approach and hands-on, real-world learning.

NEW 200 was formed in 1992 as an independent foundation that works directly with District 200 to bridge the gap between budget limitations and the desire to expand educational opportunities for students in Wheaton, Warrenville, and surrounding communities. NEW 200 provides the necessary funding to help enhance the learning experiences of District 200 students and inspire them to become enthusiastic and engaged learners. The volunteer-run foundation serves more than 1,000 educators and 13,400 students (grades K-12).

2016 STEM EXPO Photo 1 - Suggested Cutline

More than 20 exhibitors participated in the first NEW 200 Education Foundation STEM Expo by sharing science, math, and technology in action. In this experiment, District 200 students and their families watch as "elephant toothpaste" is created through a demonstration of exothermic reaction.

Photo credit: Sheri Scheidt

2016 STEM EXPO Photo 2 - Suggested cutline

Members of the PWNAGE First Robotics Team showcase the Robotics that they build and program to District 200 students during the first NEW 200 Education Foundation STEM Expo. More than 700 students, families, and community members attended the event at Hubble Middle School.

Photo credit: Sheri Scheidt

2016 STEM EXPO Photo 3 - Suggested Cutline

Hands-on experiments and demonstrations were among the highlights of the first NEW 200 Education Foundation STEM Expo that took place at Hubble Middle School.

Photo credit: Sheri Scheidt

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