

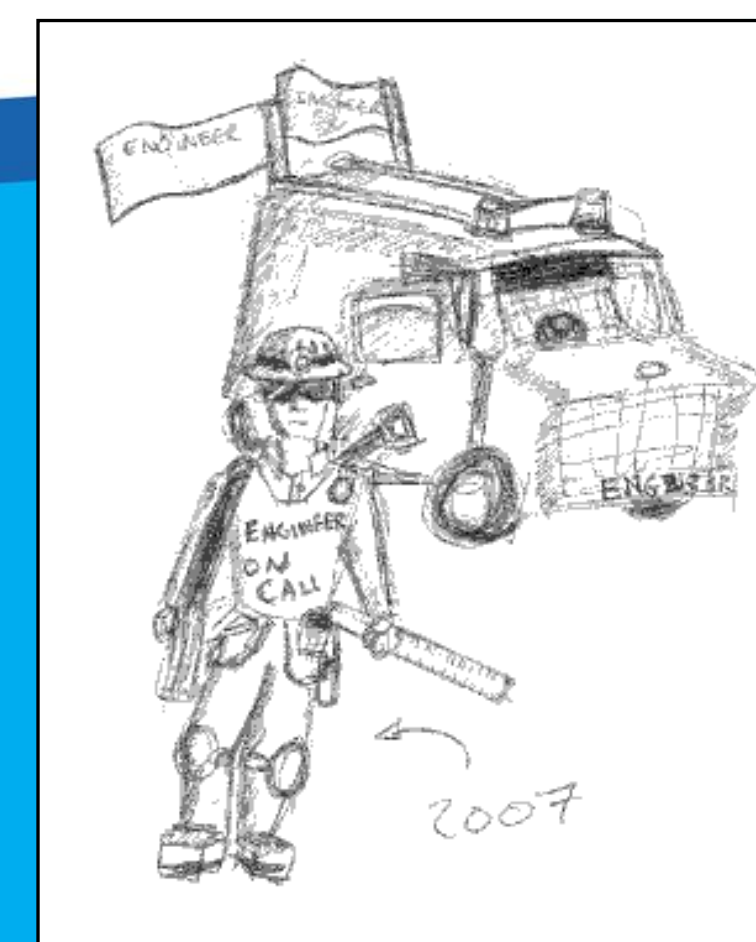
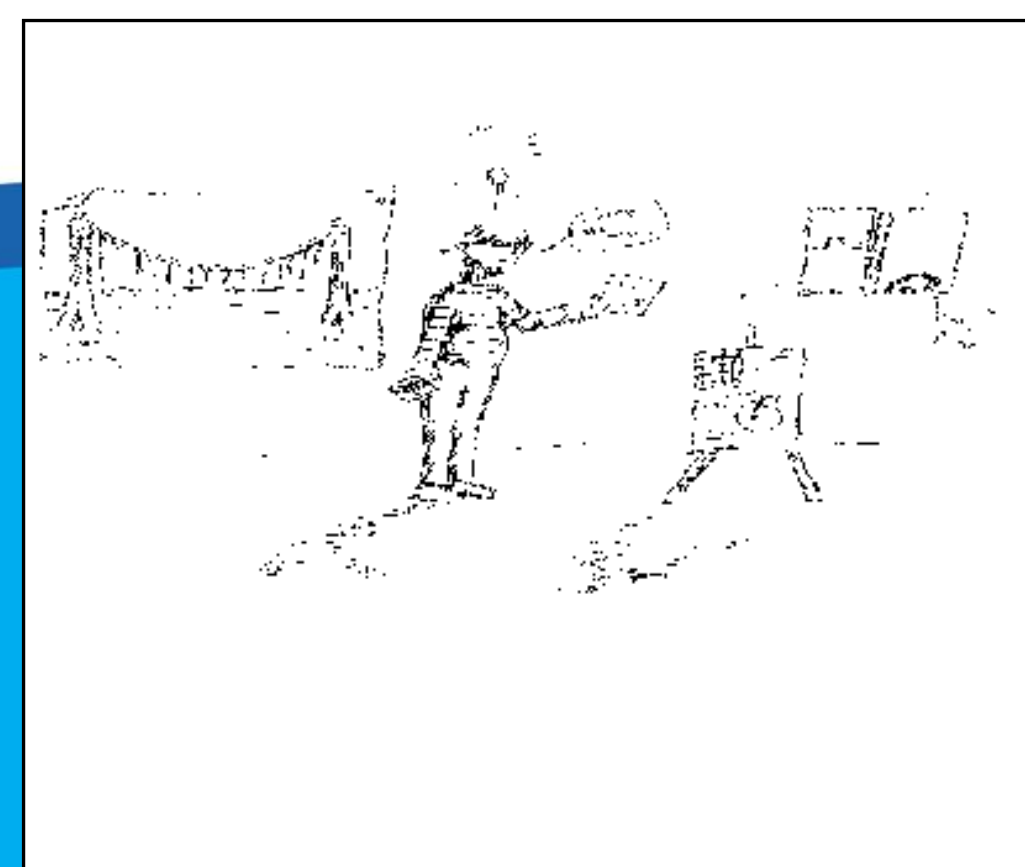


students learning with communities



Students Learning with Communities

Second Level School Visits by DIT Engineering and Science Students



Background

Research has shown that second level students have misconceptions about what Science and Engineering graduates do. The purpose of the visits by DIT second year Engineering and Science students is to help young people gain a better and more accurate understanding of what is involved with these programs of study as well as potential career opportunities. In addition, it is hoped some of these students will choose to pursue these areas of study in DIT. The visits are also designed to help the DIT students to develop their professional skills.

What is Involved?

The DIT students must prepare a 30-40 minute PowerPoint presentation about Engineering or Science. A small portion of the talk includes some information about what it is like to be a student in college as well as what facilities, support services and activities are on offer.

Visits to girls' schools or to mixed schools include specific information about scholarships and opportunities for women in the fields of Science and Engineering.

At the start of the presentation, the audience of second level students are asked to draw their interpretation of what they think an Engineer or a Scientist is. Often times the pictures reflect men in hard hats, mechanics and mad scientists (see above). Some of the included pictures, completed at the end of a talk, demonstrate how the students often modify their views during the presentation.

What is the Benefit to the DIT Students?

This project not only provides the DIT students with an opportunity to work with the local community but also a chance to develop and/or enhance the soft skills they need as students as well as future professionals. These include:

- Public speaking
- IT and PowerPoint
- Research
- Communication – verbal and written
- Organizational and goal setting skills
- Time management
- Project management
- Team work
- Conflict management/assertiveness
- Self reflection

For Further Information

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