

## Second Annual Engineering Roundtable Extravaganza March 20, 2015

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On Friday, March 20, the NTCC Department of Physics and Engineering hosted the second Annual Engineering Roundtable and Luncheon in the Student Union Building on campus. The event was sponsored by a Whatley Enhancement Grant to provide opportunities for both students currently enrolled in the engineering program and students from area high schools who are interested in the field of engineering. Governor Bill Ratliff, a NTCC Board of Trustee member, was the keynote speaker. He spoke on the attributes of a career in engineering. Roger Farr led the “Let’s Get Started” session by engaging the students in a teamwork activity of matching pictures of known figures with a picture of what he or she accomplished.

The following guests led small group discussions by discussing their college experience and careers as professional engineers:

- Richard Baney, P.E., Professor of Mechanical Engineering, LeTourneau University
- Les Brown, P.E, Principal & Sr. Mechanical Engineer, Baird-Hampton-Brown
- Roger Farr, M.S. ChE, Chemical Engineer, NTCC Adjunct Faculty Member Engineering, President of Principled Living, LLC.
- Chris Fisher, P.E., Mechanical Engineer, Regional System Engineering Manager, Northern Region, Luminant Power
- Jeff Hamilton, P.E., Civil Engineer, Manager, Land Development Services, Johnson & Pace, Inc.
- Keith Holmes, P.E., Electrical Engineer, Principal Engineer, Luminant Power
- Kenneth L. Irizarry, P.E., Industrial Engineer, Professor of Engineering and Science Education, STEM College, Texas A&M University-Texarkana.
- Roger Ledbetter, P.E., Area Civil Engineer, Texas Dept. of Transportation
- Rolin McPhee, P.E., Civil Engineer, Director of Public Works, City of Longview, Texas

- J. Torey Nalbone, Ph.D., Environmental and Public Health Engineer, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Texas at Tyler
- Ilseok “Eddie” Oh, Ph.D., Civil Engineer, Associate Professor and Department Head, Department of Engineering and Technology, Texas A&M University-Commerce.
- Governor Bill Ratliff, Civil Engineer, NTCC Board of Trustees, Retired Texas Lieutenant Governor and Senator
- Jennifer Scott, P.E., Chemical Engineer, Department of Engineering, University of Texas at Tyler

Of the 70 attendees, 51 were students who represented the NTCC engineering program, Mt. Pleasant High School, Winnsboro High School, Pittsburg High School, and Hughes Springs High School respectively. Each student was assigned to four roundtable discussions there were each led by a guest engineer.

One of the freshman engineering students, Michael Zarcone said, “The engineering roundtable was a great learning experience for all who had the privilege to attend. To have the opportunity to converse with professionals in the same field of study as me was invaluable to my confidence in my chosen field. From what I learned at the roundtable, I am now confident that I have chosen a wonderful career path that will challenge me every step of the way.”

When asked about his experience at the roundtable, Roberto Paredes, a sophomore engineering student, said, “The engineering roundtable was a positive and great experience. The roundtable gave us an opportunity to talk to engineers and ask questions about the careers we seek. One important point was that communication and teamwork are critical for engineers.”

Nicholas Norton, a sophomore engineering student, added, “Getting to talk to real engineers about their professions really taught me valuable information about my future as an engineer that I would not have learned anywhere else.”

For more information about the NTCC Engineering Program of Study, contact Dr. Mark Bouwens ([mbouwens@ntcc.edu](mailto:mbouwens@ntcc.edu)), Associate Professor of Physics, Kenneth Irizarry ([kirizarry@ntcc.edu](mailto:kirizarry@ntcc.edu)), or Dr. Paula Wilhite ([pwilhite@ntcc.edu](mailto:pwilhite@ntcc.edu)), Division Chair of Mathematics, Physics, & Engineering. The website for the Division of Math, Physics, and Engineering is located at [www.ntcc.edu](http://www.ntcc.edu).

Submitted by

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