

Programs that NPPD supports:

Central Honors Institute (CHI) Academic Camp
Dream It Do It
Nebraska Science Bowl
Project SHINE
SkillsUSA
VEX Robotics Program

Central Honors Institute (CHI) Academic Camp

Central Community College-Columbus Campus (CCC) hosts the Central Honors Institute (CHI) academic camp. CHI is a one-week residential summer camp for students going into 7th or 8th grade. Attendees are selected based on proven academic accomplishments, a recommendation from a recent teacher/counselor and demonstrated leadership and maturity among their peers. There are three different tracks that the students get to choose from to enroll in.

This past summer, NPPD partnered with CCC to host an engineering track called “Island Survival” where students were challenged to use their creative talents and critical thinking and problem-solving skills to develop a number of innovative projects to help them survive. The students also participated in a variety of energy and safety activities.

This is another way that shows NPPD’s ongoing commitment in keeping the best and brightest of Nebraska’s youth in the state and to helping promoting the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) areas.

For more information about the Central Honors Institute Academic Camp please contact Lori Neid with Central Community College at 402-562-1451.

Dream It Do It

The Dream It Do It Campaign addresses the growing shortage of talent and skilled workers in manufacturing and related businesses. It promotes a clear understanding of advanced, high tech manufacturing and its contribution to innovation, productivity, economic growth, wealth building, and quality careers. It is a vehicle for attracting people to advanced manufacturing careers and related businesses and/or training for these careers. It puts a new and exciting face on today’s manufacturing with edgy advertising aimed at 16-26 year-olds, their parents, and educators that expels old stereotypes of manufacturing. It communicates the exciting career needs in our regional economy and identifies potential education paths students may take to achieve good paying careers.

Dream It Do It highlights young people in skilled professions. NPPD sponsors two of its employees to participate in the Campaign. One is selected for the Nebraska Career Dream Team and one is selected to participate on the Columbus Area Career Dream Team. These individuals promote opportunities and realities of careers by talking to students about their personal experiences and their educational pathways.

Link:

Dream It Do It Nebraska - www.dreamit-doit.com/Nebraska/

Nebraska Science Bowl

The Nebraska Science Bowl is a fun, fast-paced, tournament-style academic competition that challenges and recognizes student's knowledge of science and mathematics. Students are quizzed in a fast-paced question-and-answer format similar to Jeopardy. A competition is held for high school students as well as for middle school students.

NPPD sends volunteers to participate in various roles during the tournaments.

Link:

www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/sci_bowl

Project SHINE

Central Community College-Columbus Campus sponsors a program called Project SHINE (Shaping High-quality Integrated Nebraska Education) which brings secondary and college faculty into collaborative relationships with business and industry. Project SHINE integrates Nebraska businesses representing energy, biofuels, food processing, and manufacturing with secondary and college science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educators and their students. This project features educator professional development activities with business mentors, year-long school-business relationships, an electronic library of problem-based learning resource materials, and gender-specific student STEM camps. This program will help educators work more closely with business and industry and their curriculum will improve and include real work examples that will engage students, especially in the areas of math and science.

The goal of Project SHINE is to increase student participation and success entering high demand technical careers in Nebraska.

NPPD serves as a mentor to four of the teachers who are participating in Project SHINE.

For more information about Project SHINE contact Doug Pauley with Central Community College at (402) 562-1280.

SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. High school and college students enroll in programs that prepare them for technical, skilled and service careers. Students learn leadership, teamwork, citizenship and character development - traits that go into shaping responsible, reliable employees who will one day become leaders in the workplace.

SkillsUSA Nebraska has yearly state competitions that allow students to showcase their skills and the opportunity to advance to national competitions. NPPD's participation in SkillsUSA includes volunteering to coordinate and judge events at the State Conference.

Link:

SkillsUSA Nebraska - www.skillsusanebraska.org

VEX Robotics Program

NPPD has partnered with CREATE Foundation utilizing their robotics program to promote STEM in Nebraska high schools. The CREATE Foundation's mission is "To inspire and prepare the youth of today to become the engineers and scientists of tomorrow." Consequently, this program is expected to encourage student interest in the STEM areas and foster engineering and technical skills of benefit to NPPD's potential future workforce.

At the beginning of each school year, NPPD donates three robotic kits to three different high schools or middle schools from within the mid- to western region of the state to participate in the robotics program. NPPD's Outreach Programs Specialist coordinates which schools will be selected and the delivery of the robotic kits. The Specialist periodically visits the schools to see how students are doing with the program. Where available, an NPPD employee is assigned to one of the participating schools to act as a technical mentor to the school team.

To help CREATE build the program out west, NPPD has also partnered with Central Community College-Hastings to sponsor tournaments in the mid-western region. This will enable schools from around the mid- to western part of Nebraska participate in a competition without the expense of having to travel to the Omaha area, where the competitions are currently held.

For more information about having your school be considered for a robotics kit, please contact NPPD's Outreach Programs Specialist, Kim Liebig, at 402.563.5532.

Links:

CREATE Foundation - www.create-found.org

VEX Robotics Design Systems – www.vexrobotics.com