

From: Wolf Green, Elizabeth J
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Subject: Xcel Energy Insider e-newsletter: Feb. 14, 2020

Good Morning,
Please take a moment to read this issue of the *Insider* e-newsletter, a publication geared toward topics of interest to Wisconsin and Michigan employees and retirees.

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Feb. 14, 2020

Xcel Energy creates learning culture for youth

A group of engineering-inclined high school students from the La Crosse area and an inquisitive pack of Eau Claire Cub Scouts each recently had the chance to step inside Xcel Energy to learn something new.

At the French Island Generating Plant, Mechanical Engineers Brent Connolly, Josh Johnson and Dave Loberg led high schoolers on an in-depth tour of the waste-to-energy plant and taught a challenging mechanical engineering activity based on the plant's refuse-derived fuel conveyor system. The Engineering Exploring session is open to all area high school students and is one of several programs coordinated by the Boy Scouts of America Gateway Area Council.



Top: Brent Connolly, Dave Loberg and Josh Johnson help students with an activity in which they needed to figure out how to calculate the speed of product traveling on a conveyor belt. Bottom: Ray Jasicki and City Planner Ned Noel with Pack 88.

Johnson, who worked at Xcel Energy as an engineering intern before joining as a full-time employee in 2017, said the session gave the students a chance to see exactly

what happens to the waste that they produce at home. “We get to show them our process and how we use technology and engineering innovations to lower carbon emissions and benefit the environment and the community,” Johnson said. “I think this helps to eliminate a lot of the skepticism that they may have about the environmental impact of waste-to-energy.”

The participants got a chance to ask questions about emissions, what happens to the ash, and how the engineers monitor everything from condenser outlet temperature to stack emissions. “We were able to give these students a unique chance to see the technology and equipment that they learn about in school applied on a large scale,” Johnson said.

The three engineers also had the opportunity to share stories and answer questions about college and their own career paths.

Engineering Explorer Advisor Elizabeth Kramer knows the importance of opportunities like the one at Xcel Energy’s French Island Plant.

“These students get hands-on experience to determine whether or not a particular career field might interest them. They develop valuable networking contacts and get to know other youth with similar aspirations,” Kramer said. “A big thank you to the engineers and to Lisa Fisher for helping us coordinate this engaging session.”

