

Media Contact:

Rebecca Thompson
Engineering For Kids Foundation
rthompson@engineeringforkids.net

For Immediate Release 4/28/16



ENGINEERING FOR KIDS FOUNDATION HELD FIRST STAFFORD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FESTIVAL AT STAFFORD REGIONAL AIRPORT

[STAFFORD, VA] – The Engineering For Kids Foundation, designed to provide S.T.E.M. education opportunities to at-risk youth, hosted the first annual Stafford Science and Engineering Festival at Stafford Regional Airport on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016 from 11:00AM-4:00PM. School buses began shuttling kids and families from Stafford Hospital and the VRE Station at Leeland Road at 10:30AM.

The event featured performances from Reptiles Alive!, Eric Energy, NASA Astronaut Dr. Tom Jones, and the 540 Boyz Motorcycle Stunt Team. With over 1,000 people in attendance, kids and families had the opportunity to participate in fun engineering challenges throughout the day like trying to build the tallest structure, building a straw rocket that could fly the farthest, and even making marshmallow catapults!

Despite a little morning rain, vendors and exhibitors across the region set up at the event to provide kids with an opportunity to experience S.T.E.M. Whether it was the amazing robot brought by Advanced Pneumatics, the chemical reactions shown by ZeroRez, or the chance to walk through the CandyBomber WWII Aircraft, everyone had the opportunity to get up close with Science and Engineering.

Special guests in attendance included Congressman Rob Wittman, racecar driver Kevin Zielenzski, and NASA Astronaut Tom Jones. Children and families had the opportunity to speak and take the photos with each of these people who all have inspiring stories about the importance of S.T.E.M. education. Mr. Zielenzski, a full-time mechanical engineer was there to inspire children about his story. His background in engineering helped make it possible for him to pursue his dream of racing and he encourages children to use their natural curiosity to find their passion, whatever it may be.

“The goal of the event was to show kids what S.T.E.M. is all about. Many kids steer away from science and engineering at a young age due to the fear of difficulty. We wanted to create an event that bring kids and companies together to show them the cool jobs they could potentially land if they stick with pursuing a degree in S.T.E.M. It’s all about taking education and presenting it in a new format that makes it fun for kids to learn, one where they can interact with everything hands-on.” -Rebecca Thompson, Executive Director of the Engineering For Kids Foundation

Without the help of the following event sponsors, an event to this scale would not have been possible- Kids Connect Network, Stafford County Economic Development, Stafford County Parks and Recreation, Franchise Well Consulting, KMZ Motorsports, Pediatric Dentistry of Fredericksburg, Reid Engineering, ZeroRez, Dominion Power, and Hilldrup Moving Company.

ABOUT THE ENGINEERING FOR KIDS FOUNDATION

The Engineering For Kids Foundation is a non-profit organization that was started in Fredericksburg, Virginia by Engineering For Kids founder, Dori Roberts. The Foundation focuses on offering the same Engineering For Kids programs to children who may not have access to extended learning opportunities. By building a team of dedicated educators, engineering mentors, and generous sponsors, the Engineering For Kids Foundation can provide support that will help interested engineering students achieve personal and academic growth. If you are interested in supporting their mission or finding out more information about upcoming events, visit their website at www.efkfoundation.org and “like” them on Facebook.



