



Caption: Delta students (l to r) Kyle Bengen, Ramiro Aguilar, Cole Sellers, and Jenny Knight expand their career options by touring the visualization lab in the Computational Sciences Facility with scientist Russ Burtner.

Advancing STEM education locally

Nearly 40 employees bring research methods and career options to life for 350 Delta students

PNNL employees are really making an impact at Delta High School (DHS), and many recently had the privilege to be involved in a fantastic effort called Research & Options Day. The day was designed to help 9th and 10th grade students prepare their Science and Engineering Fair and National History Day submissions, while the juniors expanded their horizons about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) career options. Delta seniors worked on plans for their Senior Capstone Projects with assistance from community members.

Research session topics for the 9th and 10th grades included: “How to create an elevator speech;” “How to document research through citations using MLA style;” “Producing a documentary film;” and “Designing informative posters/exhibits.”

Says volunteer **Laura Thierolf**, “Serving with such a great team of mentors, volunteers, and professionals at Research and Options Day was the best part of my work week. These guys are truly living PNNL’s values of creativity, collaboration and impact.”

Meanwhile, the juniors participated in either the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) Health Science Conference or toured PNNL to consider “options” for careers. Tours were organized by **Debbie Krisher** and **Annette Schutzenhofer** and led by **Brandi Heath** and **Blake Wright**. Sincere thanks to the following staff who participated as hosts across the Lab: **Nitin Bharadwaj**, **Russ Burtner**, **Mark Morgan**, **Graham Parker**, **Pradeep Ramuhalli**, **Ian Roberts**, **John Schilling**, **Daniel Sisk**, **Chen Song**, **Juan Valencia**, and **Nancy Washton**.

According to **Ann Wright-Mockler**, PNNL liaison to Delta, “Research & Options Day is one example of how all PNNL employees can contribute to student learning at Delta, no matter what your background is. Normally we see a lot of science and technology volunteers, but in this case, most of the volunteers drew from their experience in the humanities to help the students create top-notch science fair and history day submissions. And for the tours, enthusiastic hosts are essential to getting students interested in new STEM career options.”

Led by Wright-Mockler and supported by **Lavonne Boler** and **Kathy Feaster** of the Science & Engineering Education (SEE) team, a sincere thanks to the large group of PNNL employees who gave of their time and talent to present compelling sessions, including: **Brett Amidan, Robert Brigantic, Lawrence Chick, Justin Day, Trisha Franklin, Antonio Sanfilippo, Michael Madison, Carolyn Noonan, Christine Noonan, Trenton Pulsipher, Margaret Smoot, Courtney Stenson, Carolyn Cramer, Patricia Stauffer, Judy Thomas, Laura Thierolf, Laura Turo, Barbara Wetzel**, and retired PNNL staff Bob Talbert.

Delta, which opened its doors in 2009, will graduate its first senior class in June 2013. For the first time this fall, we have Delta interns at PNNL. If you are interested in mentoring or volunteering Delta students, please contact Ann Wright-Mockler at ann_wrightmockler@pnnl.gov.