

January 13, 2012

## **ACEC and BOCES Collaborate for Student Shadow Program**

The ACEC Rochester Chapter is participating in the New Visions Program where local member firms host a high school student interested in engineering for a weekly 3-hour shadow session.

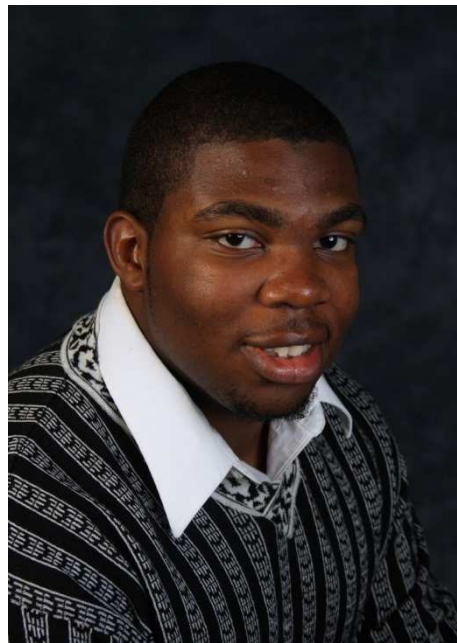
Shadowing is the opportunity for high school students to spend a weekly 3-hour timeframe at an engineering firm and experience firsthand a normal workday. Students that shadow are paired with a host firm employee to learn about the engineering profession by observing and interacting with their guide. Weekly shadowing throughout the school year will help students network with professionals, develop positive mentoring relationships, and understand the link between academics and the working world.

Shadowing provides high school students with an opportunity to explore career possibilities in a real world environment while under the guidance of an engineer that serves as the student's mentor. Students are provided with information about an engineering career. Students will depart with knowledge and awareness that will be of value to them in career decision making.

The New Visions Program is administered through Monroe County's Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The Program is geared for motivated career-oriented students who desire a unique learning experience. The program focuses on career exploration, strong college academics, and community service. By attending New Visions, students earn numerous transferable college credits. There is a competitive process for admission to the program, leading to a high standard of participating students. In order to fulfill the requirements of the program, students are involved in a career-related internship experience.

Victor Pratt is a senior at Gates-Chili HS who is participating in this year's New Vision Program. He is a National Honor Society student who is enrolled in rigorous AP courses while also being a peer tutor for Trigonometry and Chemistry. Victor has been recognized for scholastic achievements such as the Spartan Award of Excellence, Black Scholars Award, and Varsity Athletic Award. He maintains his high scholastic standards while also playing varsity football and track and field. Victor is following in his family's footsteps as his older brother is an engineering student at Purdue University. Victor noted, "I like the New Visions Shadow Program. Enrolling in the Program was probably the best decision I've made regarding my future. By shadowing engineers I now know what to expect in the real world. As a result of these excellent experiences, I have changed the area of engineering I want to pursue and I feel more prepared to enter college".

Pamela Suess is the New Visions coordinator for BOCES and liaison with ACEC who helped initiate the Program. She thinks this is a valuable learning experience for her students and noted, "We are excited to have ACEC participate in the New Visions Program as it provides an authentic learning situation that students cannot receive by sitting in a classroom! The success of the New Visions Program depends upon professionals, the members of ACEC, who care enough to share their perspective, guidance, and experiences with our students. This has been a tremendously successful endeavor".



**Victor Pratt of Gates-Chili HS**