

## Central Florida Report for “Engineering Week 2015 Workshop”

The Central Florida Professional Section of the Society of Woman Engineers (CFL SWE) and General Dynamics Mission System hosted an event on February 25, 2015 at Dommerich Elementary School in Maitland, Florida. This event was carried out with assistance from Dommerich Elementary School STEM facilitator. The event’s main sponsor was General Dynamics Mission Systems. General Dynamics purchased and provided the material for the activity and also provided some company promotional items in gift bags to students. The event focused on celebrating Engineering Week 2015 by introducing Elementary school students to engineering through hands on activity.

This event also aligned with SWE’s outreach priority to inspire young females and encourage them to enter the engineering workforce by including hands-on engineering workshops that were led by professional female engineers.



There were 60 students in attendance at this event from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The hands on activity was to build a catapult using pencils, rubber bands and a plastic spoon. The event consisted of 3 sessions, one for each grade level. The students were grouped in teams of 2. The activity was the same for all three groups. The student teams worked together to build a catapult. They then used marshmallows as a projectile to test how far they could shoot with their catapult. There were targets on the floor to measure the distance and score the teams. Each team tried 3 times to shoot their catapult. The highest score out of the 3 tries was used to determine the winning team in each group.



The volunteers also discussed different aspects of the activity with the students and engaged them in question and answer. For example, some of the questions were:

- How much force will your design require?
- What is the projectile?
- What kind of energy does the marshmallow use?
- What kind of energy does the rubber band use?
- What angle helps the projectile go further?



The event concluded with a question “who wants to be an engineer?” We are pleased to say that many hands went up. Many thanks to our sponsor General Dynamics Mission Systems and Dommerich Elementary School STEM Facilitator (Megan Baptist) and all volunteers from Central Florida SWE and General Dynamics Mission Systems office in Orlando, Florida: Juliet Preston, Rowland Darbin, Atoosa Vaziri, Simonetta O’Riordan-Adjah, Megan Baptist, and Dan Gardener and Raymond Wade.

