



Thank you letter to the SPE PlastiVan™ program from Delta College for our participation in the 2015 Dow Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival

THANK YOU! Your organization's participation made the 3rd Annual Dow Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival held at Delta College on September 25-26, 2015, a HUGE success! The event was possible through your participation, and **YOU** made all the difference! **You** made possible an engaging, hands-on, relaxed environment for area youth and their families to experience the "WOW" of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math); to meet with before and after school groups that could continue the excitement after the event ended; to meet with colleges and universities to explore Higher-Ed options; and to meet with professionals from a variety of careers in an environment that really encouraged one-on-one interaction between young people and professionals.

This year we broke all previous records and this could not have been done without the enthusiastic support and teamwork of hundreds of volunteers from Delta, Michigan Tech, area businesses and corporations, and members of our community.

We had 3325 middle school students (3667 with chaperones!) registered to attend today at the first day of our STEM Festival. We estimate that over 3000 additional visitors enjoyed the event on Saturday! It's likely that we saw over 7000 visitors over the course of this two day event!!! WOW!

We saw a sea of faces: smiling, laughing, in awe and wonder, and just plain joy. I received thank you after thank you from the teachers. One specifically pleaded with me to continue offering this every year because it does for their students what they can't in the classroom, and being able to plan for this event in the fall allows them to use it as a kick-starter for the year. Through this event we're able to show students concepts on a much larger scale than teachers can pull off in the classroom (i.e. Oobleck!). It was joyous and I am in AWE of all of the energy and enthusiasm from so many volunteers. The excitement and patience of our volunteers (the 100th time they explained the SAME thing... again) paid off as each child they met left with a new sense of wonder. This event may have been that essential boost that a child needed to consider a future in STEM.

I think I can speak for all of the organizers when I say this was by far the most spectacular opportunity for people of this region to explore STEM in a relaxed, fun, free, and engaging environment. We need to keep making differences in the lives of our youth through exciting, and possible life-changing events like the STEM Festival.

Most of all, it could not have been as successful without your contribution. I hope you realize that **You Made a Difference** for many young people. Thank you, again, for your support of such an amazing two day event! Check out the following link for event photos. We will continue to add more during the next few weeks.

<http://www.delta.edu/science/sciencefestival.aspx>

Sincerely,

Cynthia Drake,

Delta College Coordinator of the 2015 Dow Great Lakes Bay STEM Festival