



# General Dynamics Mission Systems Commitment to STEM Outreach

General Dynamics Mission Systems is dedicated to STEM outreach. General Dynamics Mission Systems has locations all across the country that partner with local schools in their area. In Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the partnership the General Dynamics Mission Systems facility has with local educational institutions is strong and being strengthened by continued outreach. This partnership benefits both the educational institutions as well as General Dynamics Mission Systems by engaging students in STEM fields of study and encouraging them to continue pursuing STEM career paths.

General Dynamics Mission Systems in Pittsfield, MA reaches out to schools and educational programs alike. It works with local elementary, middle, and high schools, colleges, afterschool programs and non-profit organizations like the Berkshire United Way, Girls Inc., The Boys and Girls Club and Boy and Girl Scouts of America to design educational projects, visit classrooms, offering engineering and robotics challenges, and opening the facility for lab tours and one-on-one mentoring.

General Dynamics uses **National Engineer's Week** as a platform to promote STEM educational fields and career paths by inviting local groups into the facility and providing special tours. The General Dynamics tour shows students how engineering principles can be executed for real life applications and how being an engineer or scientist can positively impact people and also help our nation. During this week college level students visit General Dynamics Mission Systems for special tours and conduct a resume building workshop helping to prepare them for entering the workforce upon graduation.

General Dynamics Mission Systems also organizes several events outside of Engineer's Week. **Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day** is an event where General Dynamics Mission Systems female engineers head to the local Girl's Inc. and teach a few lessons on engineering, and **The High School Engineering Design Competition** is an event held annually where General Dynamics invites local high schools from around Berkshire County to participate in a real world engineering design.

Many local high schools have approached General Dynamics Mission Systems for help in developing Introduction to Engineering as elective courses. At the college level General Dynamics Mission Systems participates in a variety of activities, with many local schools from both Massachusetts and the Capital Region in New York including: UMass Amherst, Lowell, Dartmouth, and Boston, Mass College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), Berkshire Community College, Williams College, Western New England University (WNEU), Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and Union College, among others.

General Dynamics Mission Systems recruits from these educational establishments, but they do much more than just hire students. Specifically, with MCLA General Dynamics Mission Systems has been working to help shape their curriculum for a new Software Engineering Program. General Dynamics Mission Systems tries to engage with these universities on more than just a recruitment level and want to get to know their faculty and students and build working relationship that benefit both organizations.

By partnering with local educational organizations both General Dynamics Mission Systems and the schools benefit. The students are exposed to new ideas, concepts, and career paths and General Dynamics Mission Systems helps plant the seed for them to enter into STEM careers and potentially come work for the company. If General Dynamics Mission Systems engages students at the right age—and reinforces that involvement throughout their school years—the students develop an interest and passion for the sciences and want to continue to grow their knowledge in this area. Not all schools have the funding to provide engineering related classes and many students in the state might never be introduced to this huge career field. If General Dynamics Mission Systems can strike a passion in students they can be more likely to return home after their higher education and bring their knowledge back to the community and possibly General Dynamics Mission Systems.

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