

TechFest™ 2011 Summary Report

This was the ninth year for the annual TechFest™ program created and organized by volunteers from the Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton (ASC). It was held on February 19 and 20 at Sinclair Community College in Dayton Ohio and had the second highest attendance of registered youth at 2,725 over the two days with free admittance and free parking. It is estimated that, including parents and other adults, approximately 4,900 people attended TechFest™ 2011. There were 73 hands-on, interactive exhibits staffed entirely by engineers, scientists, teachers, students and individuals involved in technology professions drawn from 79 professional societies/clubs, universities/colleges, government laboratories, companies or museums who volunteered to set up and staff the exhibits. Their goal was to provide the youth and their parents a chance to experience, one-on-one, the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and with the goal of inspiring the youth to become interested in science and math, as well as all their school subjects, with the hope that they will work towards careers in STEM.

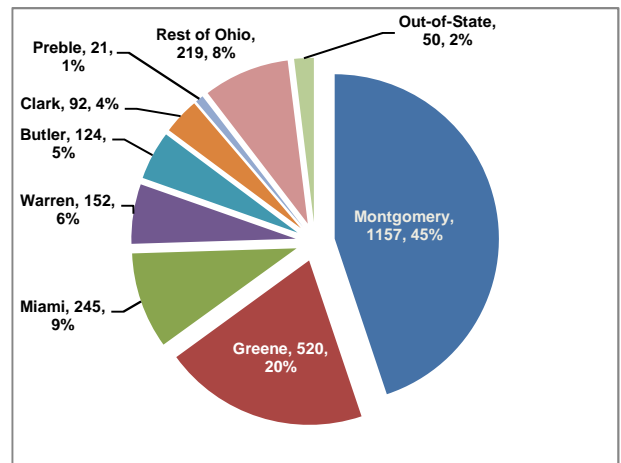
In addition to the exhibits, there were 29 info-tainment presentations given by 11 speakers over the two days attended by 616 youth and 437 adults. The presenters included Dr. John Fortman, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry from Wright State University (WSU), Robert "ELVIS" Balserak, LtCol, USAFR, former F-16 Pilot, Retired Col Joe Zeis, B-2 Test Pilot, Chantelle Rose, Teacher in Space and Chuck Sonenshein, Public School Teacher. On Saturday, there were 16 free Teacher Workshops that were completed filled within two days after opening of the registration. Wright State University provided continuing education credits for the attendees.

Since its inception in 2003, the TechFest™ Program has served 20,016 youth of which approximately 25 to 40% since 2005 have attend two or more times. TechFest 2011 was carried out by a recorded total of more than 800 volunteers contributing approximately 3,700 volunteer hours. This annual program has been included by scout troops, home schoolers and schools as an annual trip for their youth. For example, this year we had three buses bring groups to TechFest. As shown in the chart, TechFest 2011, similar to past years, brought youth from the surrounding counties as well as from distant areas, such as 18 from Michigan, 10 from West Virginia, seven from Illinois and four from Kentucky.

The TechFest™ budget of \$55,000 is funded entirely by sponsors listed at the right. The ASC is forever grateful for the confidence shown by these sponsors in underwriting our goal for TechFest, which is to strengthen our region's and nation's future in STEM. In 2012, we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of TechFest. We are in the planning stages to make that event special.

Photos and other information are available at www.ascdayton.org (click on TechFest).

Report Prepared by:
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With data provided by fellow Team Members
April 14, 2011



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