

SPRINGFIELD'S

GROW OUR OWN

MINORITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH OF TODAY WITH THE PROMISE OF TOMORROW



Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program

www.growourown.net

The Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program is sponsored by Hanson Professional Services Inc., the City of Springfield and Sangamon County with support from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The program is committed to helping Springfield's minority youth attain college degrees and eventually full time employment in engineering, science and other STEM-related fields. Grow Our Own selects students from middle school through college to participate in mentoring, educational initiatives, job training and internships. Opportunities along each of these pathways help to prepare high performing youth for successful, prosperous careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Program Overview

Hanson Professional Services Inc., the program's manager, works with minority-based organizations, businesses, colleges and universities, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and others within the Springfield community to link students to existing programs that advance learning, skill development and professional growth.

Hanson is charged with overseeing the program's administration and routine operations. In its role, it recruits and selects participating youth and program partners; connects students with promising opportunities; organizes and staffs events and activities; provides mentoring and internships; and engages the community to grow public involvement and support.

The program has initiated annual workshops for local minority organizations and schools to identify:

- Initiatives/programs that students may attend throughout the year.
- Student referrals for Hanson to review and get engaged into the various programs available.
- The program has received about 25 student referrals per year.

Some of the programs initiated by the Program include:

- Hanson offers three paid summer internships to high school or college-level minority students each year. The City of Springfield and Sangamon County also offer paid internships.
- Older students/adults can apply for IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program through the Program's orientation sessions.
- High school students can attend a week long, all expenses paid, summer camp at Michigan Tech. University through the University of Illinois' National University Rail Center Diversity Program for railroad engineering.
- Middle and high school students connected with groups like Frontiers International's Junior Frontier's Program can participate in an annual field trip to the University of Illinois for their Engineering Open House.

Schedule of Activities

The table below contains a schedule of events and programs that minority youth are encouraged to explore and pursue.

Date	Sponsoring Organization	Program / Event	Target Audience
March	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – Rail Transportation and Engineering Center (RailTEC)	Engineering Open House	Grades 7 – 12
March	Land of Lincoln Community College	Expanding Your Horizons: Math & Science Careers Are For You	6th – 8th Grade Girls
April	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign – American Railway Engineering & Maintenance-of Way Association Student Chapter	Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Clinics	Local Boy Scout troops & Explorer Posts
Summer	Hanson Professional Services Inc./City of Springfield/ Sangamon County	Summer Internship Programs	Upper Class High School Students and College Students
July	Michigan Technological University and University of Wisconsin-Superior	Summer Youth Program – Rail and Intermodal Transportation Summer Camp	High School Students
Year Round	Illinois Department of Transportation	Highway Construction Careers Training Program	Adults over 18

Program Goals

Now in our eighth year, the Grow Our Own program has received community support and many accolades, as well as National exposure. The next steps include expanding the program to other local engineering firms that have expressed an interest in the program to get them engaged to provide more opportunities to our area's minority youth. In addition, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has developed and funded the Open Doors Program with Lincoln Land Community College for minority adults interested in exploring job opportunities by expanding the program into other professions such as healthcare, banking, retail, etc.

For additional information, see the program website: www.growourown.net



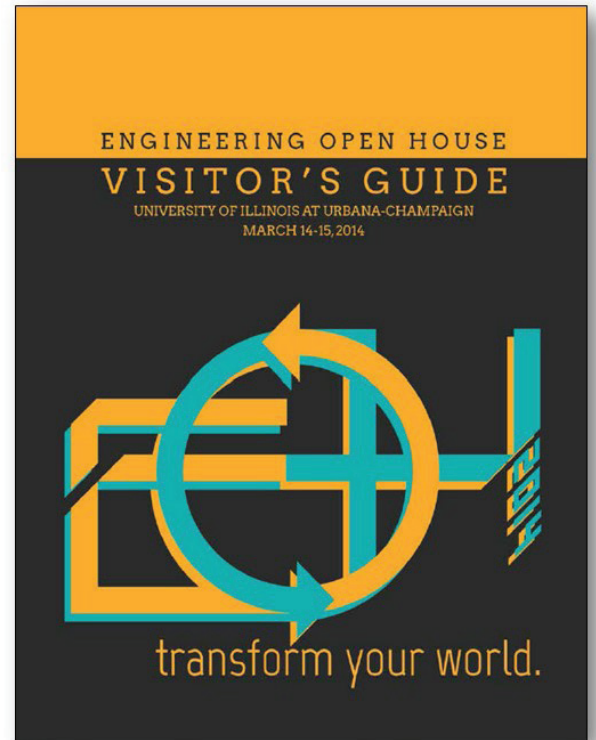
Grow Our Own Workshops

- ✓ Average about 30 attendees annually
- ✓ Represent about 25 minority organizations and schools
- ✓ About 25 student referrals received per year
- ✓ Developed program website: www.growourown.net





Engineering Open House



JOIN US FOR A FANTASTIC WEEKLONG EXPLORATION!

Rail and Intermodal Transportation explorations all week long, including hands-on and classroom activities! Several field visits will give you a first-hand look at the Rail and Intermodal Transportation industry — the people who keep the world on the move. Learn about railroad track structure, railyard operations, how truckers do their work, and many more facets of this fascinating industry, all while staying in the beautiful Lake Superior Region of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

SPACE IS LIMITED SIGN UP EARLY!

Application Deadline: May 1st | Scholarships Available

Information and Applications are now available online at: <http://syp.mtu.edu>.

Direct Link to Application: <https://www.mtu.edu/syp/discover/competitive-scholarships/2021-competitive-scholarship-app-eligible-all.pdf>



GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:



FIELD VISITS TYPICAL OF PREVIOUS YEARS:

BNSF's Superior Yard, Yardmaster's Office and Repair Shops
LS&F's Eagle Mills Yard, Dispatching and Maintenance Facilities
CLEVELAND-CLIFF's Tilden Mine Train Loading Facilities
PETTIBONE's Baraga Manufacturing Plant and HQ
HALVOR LINES' Superior Terminal, Offices and Truck Simulator
NORTH SHORE SCENIC RAILROAD Train Ride
and **LAKE SUPERIOR RAILROAD MUSEUM**
DULUTH CARGO CONNECT CN's new Duluth Intermodal Terminal
LAKE LINDEN AND TORCH LAKE Museum and Railroad Operations



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US! David Nelson | dannelson@mtu.edu | 906-487-5794 | www.rail.mtu.edu



2021 Summer Youth Program:

Rail & Intermodal Transportation

JULY 11-17, 2021

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING

GRADES 9-12

HOSTED BY:



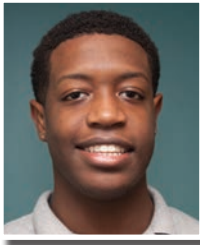
Rail Transportation Program

Michigan Tech Transportation Institute • Michigan Technological University





Hanson's Summer Intern Program



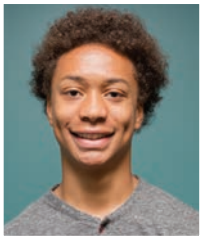
Alex Diop

Intern, project delivery services department
From Springfield
Attended Tuskegee University, graduation year: 2018
Degree: Bachelor of Science or Master of Science in computer science



Christian Moore

Aide, marketing communications
From Springfield
Attended Illinois State University; graduation year: 2020
Major: Marketing analytics and integrated marketing communications



Zaire Harris

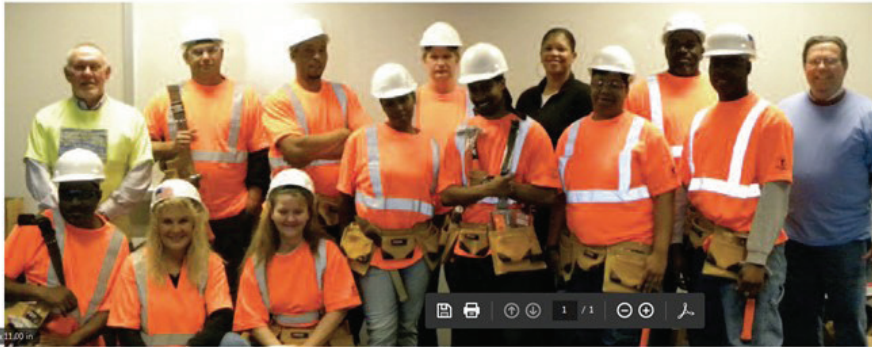
Engineering aide, infrastructure
From Springfield
Attended Springfield High School; graduation year: 2019
Interested in pursuing a master's degree in engineering



IDOT Highway Construction Careers Program

HCCTP News

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS TRAINING PROGRAM



CONSTRUCTION COURSES OFFERED IN VARIOUS SKILLS:

- O.S.H.A. 10 Hour Safety
- First Aid/CPR/AED
- Aerial Lift
- Fork Lift
- Mobile Crane
- Crane Signaling
- Skid Steer



NEWS NOW » U.S. factory output rebounds from winter weather ... Morgan Co. fair names 2014 concert headliners ... Gubernatorial hop

Minority students attend engineering open house



By Dan Petrella
Staff Writer

Posted Mar. 16, 2014 @ 10:00 pm

A group of about 35 local middle school and high school students attended the University of Illinois' annual engineering open house this weekend as part of a program designed to encourage minority students to pursue careers in engineering and related fields.

The group departed Saturday morning for Champaign-Urbana from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 908 Martin Luther King Drive. Students had the opportunity to tour the university's engineering facilities and view and interact with more than 250 exhibits, including ones on charging phones using a turbine and a 12-volt battery, cooking with biomass stoves in Haiti, and controlling electronics with a "magic" wand.

Hanson Professional Services coordinated the trip with Frontiers International Inc.'s Springfield club



Diversity Development

Minority participation program moves into second year with success

This is the first in a three-part series about the Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program.

A Springfield program that connects minority youth to educational opportunities has been a success and is in its second year.

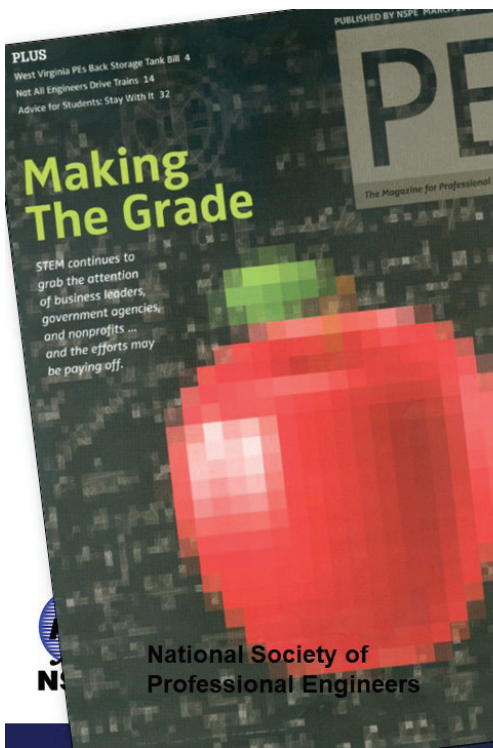
The Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program provides students with mentoring, education and training opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. The program's concept was born out of community desires for increased involvement of minority and disadvantaged businesses in the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, which will consolidate the city's rail lines by relocating rail traffic from the Third Street corridor to 10th Street.

Hanson Professional Services Inc. is providing design, environmental coordination, land acquisition, construction engineering and project management services for the rail project. Kevin Seals, Hanson's chief environmental scientist, leads public-



Photo by Hanson Professional Services Inc.

As part of the Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program, Hanson committed to hiring three minority interns each year through the duration of the program. For the summer of 2014, Hanson Professional Services Inc. hired one college-aged student and two high school seniors for its internship program.



Firm Seeks to Diversify with Outreach Initiative

As a firm, Hanson has a mission to diversify the local engineering workforce through outreach.

For the past summer, Hanson has been participating in a program that helps students gain professional skills with the potential of future employment with the firm. Kevin Seals, who is coordinating Hanson's public involvement services, believes students will greatly benefit from the real-world hands-on experience they will receive by working on firm projects. "Their participation helps us out, and we help them by furthering their education and job prospects when they get out of college," says Seals, a chief environmental scientist.

The outreach initiative also aims to expose students to careers in the railway transportation industry through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Railroad Center, a consortium of partner universities that focuses on railway transportation engineering research. (See more about engineering in the railroad industry on p. 14.)

Hanson, which is involved in the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, will partner with the center on various outreach efforts as part of a grant provided by the Federal

Railroad Administration. The firm will help identify high school students who have an interest and aptitude in railroad engineering for a working summer youth program at Michigan Tech University in Houghton. Participants will receive full scholarships to attend the program. The center will also sponsor workshops and provide scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as supporting faculty members.

The minority participation program goes beyond just helping students.

Hanson will mentor local minority business owners to help them get pre-qualified to bid on construction contracts for the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, which can involve excavation, demolition, and landscaping work. The firm has previously assisted minority contractors to become eligible to contract with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Peoni hopes that the outreach initiative will grow to include other local and regional engineering companies. "We are going to engage other engineering companies in the community to participate with us and see how they can (find an interest or help) with some other type of outreach," he says. "We want this not just as a Hanson effort, but as an engineering society effort."



KEVIN SEALS, SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HANSON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC., A MAJOR FIRM INVOLVED IN THE SPRINGFIELD RAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. HE IS COORDINATING HANSON'S OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, AND SANGAMON COUNTY.

Springfield business journal

Homegrown engineers



Homegrown engineers

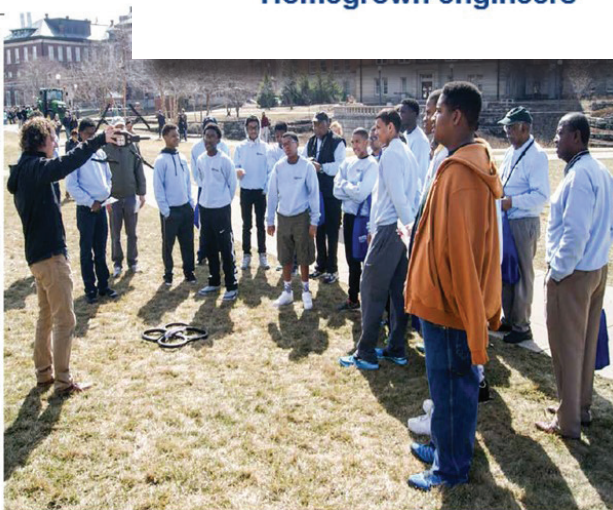
PUTTING YOUNG MINORITY ACHIEVERS ON AN ENGINEERING TRACK

By George Lorenzo

Hanson's "Grow Our Own" initiative is helping minority students in Springfield, Illinois, discover the thrill of an engineering career

Sergio "Satch" Pecori began his career at Hanson Professional Services when he was a high school student employed as a golfer at the firm's headquarters in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois. At the time, "I had no idea what an engineer was," he says.

Today, more than 40 years later, Pecori is president of Hanson, and he's making a point of helping other young people discover engineering. His firm, which employs about 400 people in offices nationwide, coordinates a program called "Grow Our Own" that introduces young minority students to education and career opportunities in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) arena. >>



Grow Our Own Program

2021-2022 Schedule

- Student Referral Deadline – December 31st
- Student Program Placement – January - April
 - Internship Interviews – January – February
 - Bridge Building Competition - February
 - Shadow Hanson – February/October
 - Engineer in the Classroom - March
 - U of I Open House – March
 - Engineering Explorer Post - April
 - Michigan Tech Summer Camp - July
- Continued Community Participation



