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## Springfield Program To Promote Engineering Field To Minority Students



A two-year pilot program [is in the works](#) to help support Springfield School District minority students who want to explore jobs in engineering and other related careers, reports the *State Journal-Register*.

The city of Springfield, Sangamon County and a the engineering firm Hanson Professional Services Inc. are teaming up for the effort called the "minority participation plan," and each plan to provide \$20,000 per year for the program.

Additionally, Hanson said it would work with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to assist in prequalifying minority firms that want to take part in the bidding process for contracts related to a \$315 million, freight train traffic consolidation project in Springfield.

The "minority participation plan" got the green light from the Springfield City Council last week, and the Sangamon County Board is set to take it up Tuesday.

Hanson and the Springfield School District are looking to seek out students in middle school through college to take part in the program, which will include engineering opportunities for minority students as part of the Springfield Black Chamber of Commerce's Summer Youth Initiative, IDOT's Highway Construction Careers Training Program, the University of Illinois' National University Rail Center Diversity Programs, and other programs.

Also, Hanson plans to start an internship program for up to three minority students each year. Minority U of I students are expected to work with the youths as part of the overall "minority participation plan."

More details about the program will be announced at an upcoming news conference scheduled for December 16, according to officials.

### Sources

- [State Journal-Register](#)

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