

Partners in Education

DE hits the DEKCS running

Pairing education and industry brings together two vastly different worlds. One works to train; the other uses the training for work.

Yet, it is a partnership that works well for Delco Electronics and Kokomo-Center Schools.

"We've established a communication network to share resources and expertise," according to Glenn Grundmann, manager of Human Resource Development, who has been active in the partnership. "And we seem to have enjoyed some success."

Indeed. The partners have strengthened existing school and DE programs, sponsored parental involvement sessions, and developed science and technology interest among students.

Tagged as Delco Electronics/Kokomo-Center Schools (DEKCS), the key partnership was established in 1989 under the Howard County Partners in Education Council. The council paired local industries and schools, seeking to develop excellence in education through their collaboration.

A 16-member DEKCS steering com-

mittee oversees various types of engineering technologies and careers employed at DE. As part of PUMMP, a high school internship program also has been enhanced. Involvement with teachers and counselors is increasing, Grundmann noted.

Furthermore, participation in U.S. FIRST's "Maize Craze" competition was born from the DEKCS partnership. The contest brought together leading companies and universities to attract young minds to science and technology.

These examples highlight the commitment DE and Kokomo-Center Schools have to improving local education, according to Grundmann. "We want to be active in helping make education better in Howard County. We're citizens here, and we're committed to the area."

Grundmann also noted the commitment is not economic. Some in-kind services have been rendered, but most have been resource exchanges. "We have something more important to provide — knowledge, expertise and motivation to help educators do their tough job in areas where they solicit help."

Future programs being considered by the steering team include a summer fel-



mittee was formed to strategically plan the partnership's mission, strategies and goals. Led by Director of Personnel Carl Anderson, the DE team spans job responsibilities to provide a cross-section of interest and expertise.

The steering committee meets once a month, reviewing goals and on-going projects. Together, members have created a long-term plan to address mutual needs and opportunities, while benefiting the community.

One community event, sponsored by DEKCS, is Parent University. Two sessions that provide parents guidelines about education, nutrition and general interest topics have been conducted and have attracted hundreds of participants. Local teachers, health professionals, and business and social agency representatives led the sessions and served on discussion panels.

The group also has further developed DE's Pursuing Upward Mobility for Minorities Program (PUMMP). The program exposes minority Kokomo-Center students in grades 8-12 to vari-

low program for teachers, electronic curriculum planning, engineering and technology resource material inventory, and facilitator training.

"We hope to be able to find ways to best prepare the children of this community for the coming century. Our partnership with Delco Electronics is an important step in reaching that goal," according to Larry Horner, superintendent of Kokomo-Center School Corp.

"We view the partnership as more than a way to exchange information. We both are committed to improve the economic and personal potential of every student and family that we serve."

In the long run, Delco Electronics may benefit from the partnership by enhancing its future workforce.

"Ultimately, more skilled and talented workers will benefit both the community and the company," Grundmann said. But he was quick to note that it is more than that.

"It is an opportunity to raise the students' awareness about the importance of a good education."



Engineer Tim Garner, far right, demonstrates the vehicle designed for Maize Craze competition to Kokomo High School students Jason Strawhacker and Carol Givens.

Briefly

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Park closes

The Delco Park ice rink closed March 1, after a record-attendance year. Park Manager Tom Campbell said about 6,900 people twirled around the rink this winter.

The park's spring programs are being developed, and most are being expanded. The park will officially open May 25, but it is open daily for jogging, walking and fishing.

CIP totals

Fourth-quarter participants in the 1991 Cost Improvement Program will be recognized in the next few weeks. The 1,239 Kokomo-based employees helped Delco Electronics save \$48 million. Additionally, cost avoidance totaled \$17.8 million.

Record savings were recorded for 1991, with \$362 million in savings and \$105 million in cost avoidance.

Customer focus

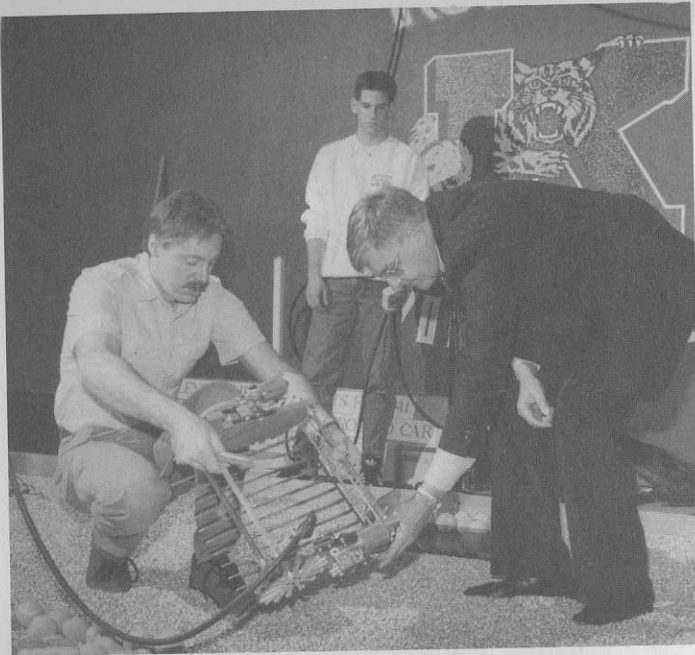
To increase Delco Electronics' focus on customers outside of GM, the responsibility for all non-GM North American platforms/marketing divisions has been consolidated into the International Business Unit.

The change was designed to improve accountability and better enable DE to expand its customer base.

Quotation

"Education can train, but not create intelligence."

— **Edward McChesney Sait**



Making it work

Engineers Tim Garner and Gene West are pictured at far left manipulating the Maize Craze vehicle during a practice session at Kokomo High School, south campus. A television reporter captures Garner doing some last-minute checking before the competition.

Maize Craze brought out our best

Delco Electronics and Kokomo High School represented our city and the state of Indiana Feb. 13 and 14 in a national celebration of science and technology.

And they did so quite well. The ScienceKats team was among the top four and garnered an innovation award.

Sponsored by U.S. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), the contest is part of a national effort to promote technological advancement as a cornerstone of America's growth and leadership.

The sporting event, called "Maize Craze," brought together leading companies and universities in a combined effort to expose young students to the fun, creativity and challenge of science and technology.

Two DE engineers — Tim Garner and Gene West — and Kokomo High School science students designed, built and tested a remote-controlled vehicle from a hodge-podge of parts provided by U.S. FIRST. Two students controlled the vehicle — a marvelous work — in a competition to collect tennis balls with

By Don Almquist

the highest point value.

The Maize Craze competition was important to Kokomo because it gave our students practical experience in how science and engineering can help solve problems and prepare us to function in the everyday world of the next century. These students will be called upon to make critical decisions about the health, economy and environment of the global community.

The need for engineers and scientists in America is reaching a critical stage. In the first decade of the next century, the National Science Foundation has predicted a shortage of 675,000 scientists and engineers with bachelor's degrees and 83,000 unfilled positions for people with graduate degrees.

This shortage is coming at a critical time. In another recent Foundation study, 95 percent of Americans were found to be scientifically illiterate.

Kokomo, as does the rest of the nation, has its work cut out for it.

Participation in this event was of course, one small step. It was, however, an important one because the team represented the solution. Most important, the ScienceKats demonstrated that when parents, schools, businesses and government team up, good things can happen. Such a concerted effort will be necessary in order for America to regain its engineering and technological leadership position. The ScienceKats demonstrated that learning is fun, that engineering is exciting.

The team extended well beyond the small group of students and engineers traveling to New Hampshire for the event. A good-sized group of students regularly stayed after school and worked on weekends to strategize, design and prepare for the event. School administrators and faculty members and DE engineers and skilled trades workers gave of their time and resources.

Undoubtedly, Delco Electronics and Kokomo came out a winner.