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Daimler Engineer “Puzzles” Century High School Students

As part of National Engineers Month (February), long-time Daimler Trucks North America engineer Michael Pranger visited classes at Century High School in Hillsboro to introduce students to the amazing world of engineering. “I started participating in National Engineers Month five years ago and discovered that I really enjoy talking with students about the exciting things that engineers get to do. Students need more chances to learn about possible career paths while they are still in school.”



Pranger talked about the kind of people who end up being engineers. They are curious about how things work, like to work with other people, and want to solve problems and make things work better.

He had the students carry out two activities - both emphasizing the importance of teamwork in brainstorming and solving problems.

“Engineers need to work together to find the best solution.” Pranger has visited dozens of classes and he finds that “students working alone can maybe come up with four or five ideas when asked to brainstorm, but a group of

several students will quickly think of forty or more. Humans stimulate each other to think new thoughts and this is vital to improving our technologies and finding better solutions to our problems, be it global warming or a more efficient diesel engine.”

National Engineers Month (February) is orchestrated by the **Business Education Compact**, a local non-profit organization dedicated to “make learning real” for Oregon and SW Washington students. In its 16th year, the program has enabled more than 275,000 students to have the privilege of interacting with a real engineer in their classroom.

Daimler Trucks North America, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler, is the largest heavy-duty truck manufacturer in North America and a leading manufacturer of medium-duty trucks and specialized commercial vehicles. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, Daimler Trucks North America manufacturers, sells and services several renowned vehicle brands, including Freightliner (heavy-duty and medium-duty trucks), Western Star, Freightliner Custom Chassis and Thomas Built Buses (school buses).

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