



make learning real™
 BUSINESS
 EDUCATION
 COMPACT

MEDIA CONTACTS

Mary Beth Horton
 Business Education Compact
 503.646.0242 x33

Carly Dodds
 Acumed
 503.207.1226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2011

“Mending Bones” Spurs on 7th Graders to Engineering
 Acumed engineers engage with Mountain View Middle School

BEAVERTON, OR—Sherrol Walters’ science class at Mountain View Middle School put their knowledge and problem solving skills to the test during an engineering activity led by Jennifer Zuba and Lindsay Putnam, bio-medical engineers from Acumed. As part of National Engineers Month, Zuba and Putnam showed students the remarkable impact that engineering can have to heal human injuries.

Students were awed and inspired as Zuba and Putnam shared the miraculous advancements that engineering professionals are making in the medical field every day. These two engineers work to create and improve products that help heal broken bones and other ailments by mixing knowledge of human biology with mechanical engineering. The students also had the opportunity to see what it takes to become an engineer and the world of possibilities available to them.

“It’s a good age to show them what their options are,” said Walters. “They are just now starting to think about what they want to do.”



Photo courtesy of Doug Vorwaller Photography

After a session of story-telling about how Acumed implants radically change people’s lives for the better, the students got the chance to fix bones during their engineering activity. Each group received a replica broken bone and a kit containing wooden splints, pins, clay and ribbon that could be used to join the broken bones.



Photo courtesy of Doug Vorwaller Photography

Every group used a different strategy. But in the end, every design worked well to hold the bone in place. They were able to use key engineering principles to design a medical device similar to those that Zuba and Putnam work with on a daily basis.

“We need to get rid of the idea that engineering is a closed profession.” said Zuba, “Anyone has the ability to be an engineer.” “Anyone can be an engineer,” repeated Putnam during the conclusion of the presentation, “and you can work in any field you choose.”

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 17th year, the program has enabled more than 325,000 students to have the privilege of interacting with a real engineer in their classroom.

Acumed is a global leader of innovative orthopedic and medical solutions. With over two decades of experience in the orthopedic industry, Acumed’s mission is to aid the afflicted through the ingenuity of our minds, the labor of our hands and the compassion of our hearts. Founded in 1988, Acumed is headquartered in Hillsboro, Oregon, with offices and a distribution network around the world.