



## **BEC Makes Learning Real at Forest Grove HS**

Portland General Electric (PGE) engineer Steve Higgins made learning real for scores of students at Forest Grove High School yesterday. In a bracing round of Jeopardy, student teams answered questions from categories including energy consumption, power generation, renewable resources and full-spectrum considerations.

The game capped a presentation tracking power consumption and rising demand. Higgins explained how world politics and geography influence the future of energy. Detailing the ins and outs of geothermal, hydroelectric, coal, natural gas, wind and solar-generated power, the call to future engineers grew louder.

Science teacher Tammy Johnson has participated in National Engineer's Month for the past five years. National Engineer's Month is coordinated by the Business Education Compact (BEC), a local non-profit that links the classroom to the workplace.

"Students hear from someone who's not a teacher and learn how science affects daily life. It sounds kind of cool. It gives kids insight how they can participate in exciting work that benefits everyone." Johnson reports that the experience "connects the dots from science to real-life."

Freshman physical sciences students glimpsed the questions engineers confront daily. A model wind turbine, a cross-section of insulated power cable and a temperature reading device that looked like an accessory for James Bond kept the students enthralled, despite the subject's complex nature.

The conclusion? With diminishing natural resources, more engineers are needed to find reliable, efficient, environmentally sound energy solutions.

"BEC has accomplished its goal of making learning real for 20,000 students in 600 classrooms celebrating National Engineer's Month," says Mary Beth Horton, BEC's deputy director.

The BEC partnered with 12 organizations to celebrate National Engineer's Month in February. The combined effort stimulates student interest in meeting Oregon's future workforce demands for highly skilled engineers.

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## **THE BUSINESS EDUCATION COMPACT**

For 21 years, the Business Education Compact (BEC), a non-profit organization, has been connecting the classroom and workplace with hands-on, innovative learning experiences for students and teachers; creating and leading working partnerships with business and education; and advocating for quality education.

For more information visit [www.becpdx.org](http://www.becpdx.org).

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