2018-19 Chapter Season
Official Chapter STEM Outreach Sponsor Program

The ASM Detroit Chapter’s STEM Outreach Program is designed to encourage the next generation to become members of ASM by seeing and experiencing ASM at the local level. In previous years, the chapter offered a heavily compensated attendee price ($5 instead of $30) to any college or university student that wished to attend our monthly meetings. Starting in early 2018, there was an upsurge in student attendance due to partnerships developed with two local university professors, and this changed the financials associated with the dinner meetings.

In March 2018, a pilot program was established in which the chapter approached a number of its sustaining member companies about assistance with meeting all of the costs of student attendance. Fluxtrol, Inc., agreed and was designated as our official Chapter 2018 STEM Outreach Sponsor. The experience was so positive that the chapter decided to make the STEM Outreach Sponsor Program permanent starting in 2018-2019. The Chapter was deeply honored when Fluxtrol signed up immediately to be the sponsor in June 2018, agreeing to cover the entire cost ($30) for each STEM attendee for the 2018-2019 chapter year. Recognition for this was given both verbally at all meetings as well as published regularly in our chapter newsletter.

In its first full year, the STEM Outreach Sponsor Program has proven very successful in bringing significant numbers (~25 - 30) of local college students to our chapter meetings. The two local professors (UM-Ann Arbor and Wayne State) regularly encouraged not only student attendance but interaction with the chapter members. This took the form of assignments where chapter members were interviewed on their career (UM) or the presentation was summarized (WSU). In addition, the president of Fluxtrol, Robert Ruffini, attended several of the meetings, where he sat with the students and had discussions on STEM careers as well as the possibility of internships. The students mentioned that this was a great event and liked that a company president spent the evening with them.

In addition to supporting the college students, the STEM Outreach Sponsor Program has taken on the dinner meeting funding associated with the Detroit Chapter’s recognition of 20 - 25 outstanding local STEM educators and students. Throughout a typical year, the chapter identifies and awards 8 Teacher Scholarships, 3 University Scholarships, 2-4 ASM International Community College Scholarship Winners, 2 – 4 Metro Detroit Science Fair award winners, and 3 – 5 ESD Future City Winners. These individuals and their parents/mentors are invited to a dinner meeting free of charge, where they have the chance to meet and present to our chapter members.

These individuals represent several key groups for the future. The students are typically in introductory materials science classes and may be choosing MSE as a potential career. The teachers, being graduates of the ASM Materials Camps, reach hundreds of middle/high school students who will be thinking of college majors. The Future City and Science Fair winners are also middle/high school students who will be thinking on future college majors/careers. The community college and university scholarship winners are individuals who will soon be graduating and becoming professionals. Again, the dinner meetings not only expose them to the possibilities of materials-based careers but to membership in ASM at the national and chapter levels.
Due to the success of the *STEM Outreach Sponsor Program* in allowing for the attendance to be increased without financial distress to the chapter, the sponsorship program will become a permanent part of the chapter’s meeting program going forward.