

ENGINEERING:

A Powerful Force in Southwest Florida's Classrooms



Help Us Bring The Nationally Recognized Museum of Science, Boston
K-12 Engineering Curriculum to Southwest Florida

The Imaginarium + The Museum of Science, Boston
in cooperation with
Lee County Schools + The Florida Engineering Society
invite you to join us for an informational reception

"Engineering: A Powerful Force in Southwest Florida's Classrooms!"

guest speaker
Ioannis Miaoulis
President, Museum of Science, Boston

hosted by
FGCU
College of Arts + Sciences
J.A. Whitaker School of Engineering

Thursday, February 18, 2010
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Florida Gulf Coast University
10501 FGCU Blvd, S., Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565

RSVP to Karen Miller or Christy Newman
239-936-4003 or cneman@hsa-env.com



Join us after the presentation for refreshments + conversation about K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering + Math (STEM)

By Richard C. Lewis, II, PhD, PE and Karen Miller, FES Calusa Chapter



The FES Calusa Chapter K-12 Committee is working with the local children's science museum and its supporters to bring the Museum of Science, Boston's K-12 "Engineering is Elementary" curriculum designed by the National Center for Technological Literacy* (NCTL*), to schools throughout Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry Counties.

To kick off the effort, the committee held an informational reception at Florida Gulf Coast University. The presentation, entitled "Engineering: A Powerful Force in Southwest Florida's Classrooms," provided local stakeholders more information about this exciting program, and how it can benefit local students. The President of the Museum of Science, Ioannis Miaoulis, energized the audience into action in promoting the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum in our schools. Dr. James Browder, Superintendent of Lee County Schools, also spoke.

The ultimate goal of the kick-off was to bring interested stakeholders into a grant-writing process, headed by the city of Fort Myers' Imaginarium Hands-On Museum and Aquarium, that will be inclusive of as many local school systems, universities, colleges, businesses and institutions as possible, in order to reach students throughout our five-county region. Lieutenant Governor Kottkamp endorsed this project, and Ioannis Miaoulis has generously offered to help with the grant-application process—which has been very successful in other areas throughout the country. In fact, the South Florida Science Museum in West Palm Beach has been successful in obtaining funding and has added the "Engineering is Elementary" curriculum to the resources they offer to local educators.

Efforts to bring the NCTL* program to Southwest Florida are being led by the Imaginarium Hands-On Museum and Aquarium, with the support of the Florida Engineering Society's Calusa Chapter, Lee County Schools and Florida Gulf Coast University. This initiative is an important step to ensuring that our students receive the technological education that will make them a vital component of our future workforce, and will help keep Southwest Florida on the cutting edge of a diversified economy.

Since 2004, the NCTL* has actively pursued partnerships in all 50 states to raise awareness and understanding of engineering in schools and museums. The NCTL* works in partnership with state and local educators to provide professional development in engineering and technology and its successful integration across the K-12 curriculum. To learn more about NCTL* go to: www.mos.org/NCTL/.

We'd like to thank Ioannis Miaoulis for taking the time out of his busy schedule to address our audience and for all of his encouragement. His enthusiasm for STEM education is infectious. You can learn more about him at: www.prism-magazine.org/jan06/feature_powerful.cfm.

If you would like to support the FES Calusa Chapter's efforts in this initiative, please contact Dr. Richard Lewis at: rlewis@hsa-env.com or 239-936-4003.