



Department of Biomedical Engineering
600 North Campus Drive
Engineering Hall 218 A
Glassboro, NJ 08028
Phone 609.464.6277

March 14, 2022

Dear Dr. Stowman-Burke,

Mrs. Powers and I are reaching out to update you on our collaborative outreach initiatives and to get your support for a planned field trip to Rowan University's Department of Biomedical Engineering.

I am the Chair of Outreach and Community Engagement in Biomedical Engineering at Rowan University, and Mrs. Susan Powers and I have collaborated in outreach since January 2019. Prior to COVID we ran the KINDLE Program, which entailed hands-on activities and interactive presentations in Mrs. Powers's Chemistry classroom during the lunch block with predominantly Biomedical and STEM Academy students. In May 2019 we also invited KINDLE students to our BME labs so they could hear research presentations and participate in interactive lab demonstrations.

Due to COVID, KINDLE re-invented itself and became BioEngineering And Me (BEAM), a virtual program that connects Rowan Engineers with Glassboro High school (GHS). Twice a month Rowan Engineers presented interactive virtual presentations/activities related to different facets of biomedical engineering to Glassboro High students. For example, in a meeting that took place around Valentine's Day, participants learned how to use OnShape (free web-based CAD software) to create their own personalized heart-shaped pendants, which our students printed with our 3D printers and dropped off with Mrs. Powers so attendees could pick up their 3D printed pendants. We also put together a highly successful virtual summer program (40+ participants, very positive feedback). **We will host another virtual program this summer and would be thrilled to have Glassboro High School students participate.**

This semester, BEAM is doing monthly virtual hands-on activities (our team puts together kits that Mrs. Powers distributes to students) and we are planning on finishing the semester off strong with a field trip (tentative date: May 19, 2022). The May 2019 field trip involved countless hours of preparation and over 20 Rowan students/faculty, but unfortunately only eight GHS students attended. There are 40 GHS students signed up as BEAM mentees. We would like to extend the invite to all these students, free of charge, and we can easily host 20-25 GHS students for the May 2022 field trip.

Tentative agenda for this year's field trip:

- **Welcome / Opening Remarks** (Dr. Vega, 9am, Engineering Hall, Room 319)
 - Light refreshments will be served
- **Research Snippet Presentations** (930am – 11am, Engineering Hall, Room 319)
 - Undergraduate & graduate students will give short presentations about: a) the college experience at Rowan and/or b) research they're working on.
- **Break** (until 1115am)
- **Lab Demonstrations** (1115am – 1230pm)

- There will be 5 lab demonstrations running at once. GHS students will split into five groups, and these groups will rotate throughout the demo stations which will start every 15 minutes (1115am, 1130am, 1145am, 12pm, 1215pm)
- Lab Demonstration stations TBD
- **Lunch** (1230pm – 1pm, Engineering Hall, Room 319)
- **Closing Remarks / Group Photo** (Dr. Vega, 1pm-110pm, Engineering Hall, Room 319)

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our outreach efforts and for considering additional chaperone(s) to provide more GHS students with the opportunity to visit Rowan and interact with our Biomedical Engineering student body. Please let me know if you would like to meet with Mrs. Powers and I to discuss further.

Sincerely,



Sebastián L. Vega

Assistant Professor

Chair, Outreach and Community Engagement

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Rowan University

vegas@rowan.edu

Phone: 856.256.5522