

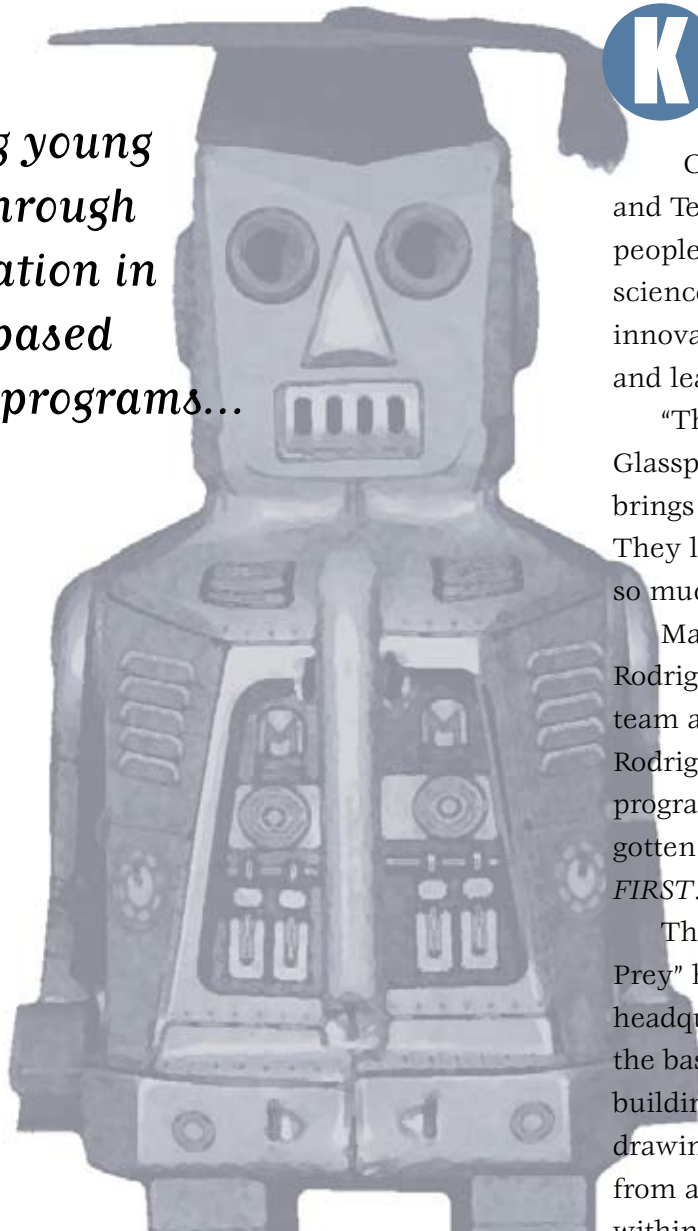
community

at the center

Encouraging Tomorrow's Engineers

FIRST Makes Science #1

...inspiring young people through participation in mentor-based robotics programs...



Keeping the United States at the leading edge of technology and innovation in the twenty-first century requires, in part, a commitment to fostering future generations of engineers.

Organizations like *FIRST*, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, exist to do just that. *FIRST* is dedicated to inspiring young people through participation in mentor-based robotics programs that build science, engineering and technology aptitude, encourage creativity and innovation, and foster valuable life-skills such as self-confidence, teamwork and leadership.

"This is something I'd recommend to any parent," said Susan Glasspiegel, regional director for the Connecticut chapter of *FIRST*. "It brings out the best qualities in kids, and it makes them want to succeed. They learn so many things without even realizing it because they're having so much fun."

Manufacturing Engineer Heriberto (Eddie) Rodriguez can attest to that. Rodriguez got involved with the Hartford Schools' "Birds of Prey" *FIRST* team as a high school student in 1997. Upon completing his education, Rodriguez came back to help mentor the team. "It's a very inspiring program," says Rodriguez. "I wouldn't have become an engineer if I hadn't gotten involved with *FIRST*."

The "Birds of Prey" had been headquartered in the basement of a building in Hartford, drawing students from all high schools within the city limits. Last year, the building was sold and the team was forced to find a

new home. Due to the heavy mechanical nature of the team's projects and equipment, relocating would be more costly than the team could afford. Fortunately, Northeast Utilities (NU), which has supported *FIRST* teams in various ways for several years, stepped in to arrange for moving estimates and secured a grant from the NU Foundation to cover the costs related to moving the "Birds of Prey" into their new home at Hartford High School.

"Because of NU's support," said Rodriguez, "we can continue to expose Hartford students to *FIRST*. Without this program many of these kids would never have a chance to experience engineering in a fun, hands-on way."



continued on page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE



Students help to "take home the green"
Page 2



Working with Latino-owned businesses
Page 4



CL&P people deliver on serving statewide
Page 4

CL&P Grants Promote Promise of an Eco-Friendly Future

Students Compete to **GREEN** their Schools

How green is your school?" was the question CL&P asked Connecticut high school students last October, when the company launched its *Live Green – Win Green* competition. *Live Green – Win Green* challenged students to demonstrate what their school is currently doing to save energy and preserve the environment and to propose one or more new eco-friendly initiatives they would like to put in place.

"The idea was to encourage high school students to think green," said CL&P spokesman Mitch Gross, "to use their creativity and ingenuity in ways that serve the environment."

Student teams from nearly 20 schools across the state each produced a two-minute video and 1,000 word essay on the topic, knowing that the winning submission was worth a \$20,000 grant toward making their proposed green initiatives a reality. After narrowing the field to 15 deserving finalists, the grand prize was awarded to the Earth Club of Suffield High School, in Suffield. Honorable Mentions, plus \$5,000 grants each, were awarded to Daniel Hand High School in Madison, East Lyme High School, and Mercy High School in Middletown. And while its team didn't win a grant, Simsbury High School pulled in the "People's Choice" award – thanks to an email blast from the school's principal encouraging the community to go online and cast a vote.

Justin Kaput, a teacher in Suffield's Agri-Science department, mentors the school's Earth Club.

"It's amazing how much these kids care about the environment," said Kaput, who has been an environmentalist for years. He sees the competition as a catalyst for awareness and change, as well as a great way to share ideas and learn from what other schools are doing across the state.

"We really appreciate CL&P giving us this opportunity," said Kaput. "It's given our school something that we can all focus on and has created a lot of momentum and administrative support for making some eco-friendly changes."

"So many good ideas came out of this," said Gross. "All of the schools put a lot of thought into their entries, and the judges had a hard time determining who would win the grand prize." In the end, Suffield's well-balanced entry came out on top, due to the strength of both their video and essay.

Suffield will use their \$20,000 grant toward training on how to build a green roof – a vegetated roof, where plant life takes the place of shingles or tiles. Green roofs provide improved insulation and filter carbon dioxide and pollutants out of the air, among other environmental benefits. Suffield students also hope to modify the building's gutter system so that water runoff can be collected and supplied to the school's sprinkler system.

With 19 bathrooms and 1,200 students, members of the Environmental Club at Daniel Hand High School in Madison zeroed in on reducing waste by installing hand dryers in school bathrooms in place of paper towels. The students' research revealed that using hand dryers would decrease the school's paper towel consumption by 1,000 packages per year on average, saving space in our landfills – and saving the school thousands of dollars. In a fitting symbolic gesture, Daniel Hand arranged to receive their grant from CL&P on Earth Day.

"The project required lots of research and several meetings with administrators," said Chris Pagliuco, a social studies teacher and advisor to the Environmental Club. "So aside from the obvious environmental aspects, the competition was a great way to demonstrate to the students what it takes to make things happen and really bring about change."

"The administrators and staff were very supportive of this effort," said East Lyme science teacher and Ecology Club advisor

Laura Rotchford, "so the kids were really able to take the lead. They had to look at the big picture of what our school is doing energy- and environmentally-speaking, and then make decisions about where to make changes. They also had to set up meetings with the right people, and get to those meetings prepared. It was a terrific learning experience."

At Mercy High School in Middletown, the contest also served as a bonding experience.

"Getting the entire school together, as a community... to show our true Mercy girl school spirit by editing our videos and revising our essays was a real joy," said Gabrielle Valentin, a member of Mercy's Peace Jam, a student organization dedicated to social justice. "We plan to use the money towards

buying a more energy efficient dishwasher and more recycling bins," said fellow Peace Jam member Nicole Santarpia, "and we would love to take part in the *Live Green – Win Green* contest again if given a chance."

"It's been fun meeting the students who were involved in this," said Gross. "They are a creative and connected group of young people who are very aware of their world and understand the importance of conservation."

The first *Live Green – Win Green* competition was such a success that Gross says CL&P is already making plans to do the it again next year, with hopes of getting even more Connecticut high schools involved.

To view the video entries, visit www.livegreenwingreen.com.

**Live
Green**
Win Green!



(ABOVE)
Suffield High
School's
winning team



Honorable Mention
recipients: Daniel
Hand High School,
East Lyme High
School and Mercy
High School



FIRST Robotics

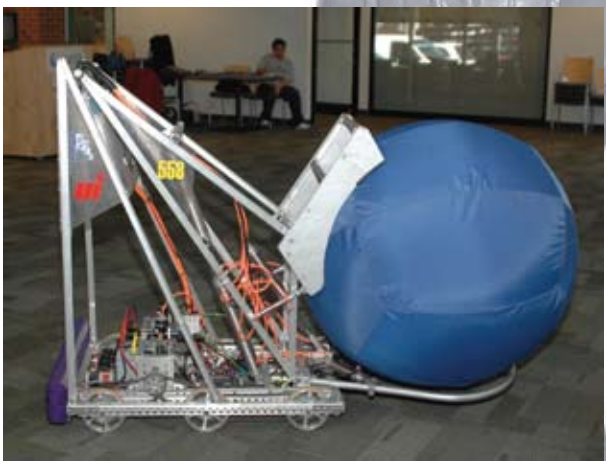
The NU Foundation and CL&P also provided grant money to support *FIRST* teams throughout the state.

“The money we received from CL&P helped us cover some expenses that weren’t included in our operating budget,” said Art Dutra, a mentor of the “Gus Robotics” team for the three high schools in Meriden. “It helped keep us afloat when we really needed it. CL&P and NU have stepped up very enthusiastically in support of *FIRST*, and it has been appreciated.”

Mike Gentry is CL&P’s central region work management coordinator, and a mentor of the Lyme-Old Lyme High School “Techno Ticks.” Gentry, who has been involved with the team for over a decade, is passionate about the *FIRST* program.

“Someone at a competition once asked me whether *FIRST* was for kids who want to be engineers, or engineers who want to be kids,” said Gentry. “Both! I told her.”

Connecticut *FIRST* held a regional competition at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford at the end of March. Sixty teams – 29 from Connecticut and 31 from neighboring states – gathered to put their robots to the test before a crowd of 1,500 students and 1,000 mentors, fans and volunteers. The event was co-sponsored by the NU Foundation and United Technologies.



New Walgreens Distribution, New Employment *CL&P Helps Bring Opportunities to Windsor*

On April 15, following two years of major construction, the town of Windsor welcomed the opening of Walgreens’ newest distribution center. Currently serving 275 Walgreens stores in New England and New York, the 700,000 square foot facility has already brought 250 new jobs to Windsor. That number may grow to as many as 800 in coming years.

The newly redesigned distribution facility is the second of its kind – following the model of Walgreens’ Anderson, South Carolina distribution center – and is specially designed to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

“Windsor is a very inclusive kind of community,” said Town of Windsor Economic Development Director Jim Burke, “so Walgreens’ disability initiative struck a chord with the community.” Of course, so did the idea of bringing hundreds of jobs and diversifying the area’s economic base.

A site consultant began screening potential Northeast locations for Walgreens in 2005. Windsor was identified as the ideal Connecticut site, with enough available acreage to house the huge facility, good highway access and central New England location, but the town still had to compete against other locations in New England and New York. Burke brought CL&P into the site screening process early on.

“Whenever we hear of a business potentially looking to locate in our area, we get CL&P’s Business Development Manager, Tom Marano, involved,” said Burke. “Power is always a major aspect of a company’s needs and costs, and Tom can provide information about the ability to bring in the necessary service, and CL&P’s energy conservation and metering programs. And getting CL&P involved right away helps show prospects that we have our act together.”

The new Walgreens distribution center “all began with our Senior Vice President of Supply Chain and Logistics, Randy Lewis, who has a child with autism and wondered what kinds of employment opportunities would exist for him,” said Deb Russell, manager of outreach and employee services for Walgreens. “Our goal is to have people with disabilities make up a third of our workforce, so we have re-engineered the distribution centers to help ensure those opportunities are available.”

For example, the facility has work stations designed to accommodate employees in wheelchairs, and while all Walgreens distribution centers use automated processes, the newer facilities change the way employees interface with the computer systems that run them.

“We now have very user-friendly, touch-screen systems that lead employees through each step,” said Russell. “It’s really helped employees to be more independent, and it cuts down on training time.”

Once Walgreens selected the Windsor site for its new distribution center, CL&P System Projects Manager Jim Dieterle began the work of bringing the necessary power service to the area.

“The building is highly automated, and the level of service required more capacity and reliability than the existing facilities could support,” said Dieterle, “so we brought in an additional circuit, automated switch gear and multiple transformers to provide the area with enough industrial capacity to support the Walgreens facility, and then some.”

“Beyond the important employment and economic benefits Walgreens brings to the town of Windsor,” said CL&P’s Tom Marano, “we hope our investment in the region’s infrastructure will help attract more new business and industry looking to locate in the Northeast.”



CL&P Employee Recognized for Lifesaving Action

CL&P employee Ed Patten recently received the Northeast Utilities Chairman’s Lifesaving Action Award. The award, which has been presented to over 50 employees since 1999, recognizes Northeast Utilities employees who exhibit exceptional resourcefulness, initiative, fortitude, perseverance, or quick thinking, on or off the job, to directly prevent, mitigate, or physically remove other persons from imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm.

Patten, a troubleshooter in Norwalk, was recognized for saving the life of a woman whose car had stalled on railroad tracks in Redding, Conn. He convinced the woman to move away from the vehicle before it was hit by a train, which tore off the front end of the car.



NU Chairman of the Board, President and CEO Chuck Shivery presented the award to Ed Patten

Energy-conscious Businesses 101

Imagine a place where entrepreneurs and small business owners can learn everything from basic computer skills to business management essentials and energy-saving strategies that conserve resources and money – all free of charge. Just such an opportunity is a reality for Connecticut's Latino community, thanks to the Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA), CL&P and the Northeast Utilities Foundation.

SAMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the support and development of Latino-owned businesses and business owners throughout Connecticut. SAMA's mission is to equip the population it serves with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve career independence, provide high quality goods and services, and succeed as business owners.

With financial backing from the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northeast Utilities Foundation, SAMA offers a free 10-week course in energy and computer technology training for small business owners, especially Latino business owners. The program has run every six months for the past five years, graduating nearly 300 people to date. This May, 12 more well-prepared graduates bring their new skills and knowledge to the workforce.

SAMA Training Director Ana Sánchez-Adorno developed the course curriculum, which includes basic computer skills, with an introduction to Microsoft Word, an overview of the legal aspects of creating a business entity, a section on business accounting in QuickBooks program, insurance matters, and energy conservation. Sánchez-Adorno and another SAMA instructor provide most of the training, but are joined by an employee from CL&P for the section on energy conservation.



"We are trying to educate the community about how important it is to conserve energy," says Julio Mendoza, executive director of SAMA. "In the future, we're hoping to also offer site visits to provide an energy audit. If a participant is interested, we would actually visit their place of business with the CL&P trainer to provide specific advice on how that person can take steps to save money and run a greener business."

The Northeast Utilities Foundation has been providing funding for the SAMA program since 2000. "They're one of our most important partners," says Sánchez-Adorno, "and we are grateful for their commitment to us and our community. We're lucky to have their support, and hope it continues for many more years."



Reaching Across the Roundtables



Northeast Utilities and CL&P executives recently held a series of five roundtable discussions at locations across the state – Willimantic, Norwalk, Waterbury, New London and Hartford – aimed at cultivating relationships with Connecticut's Latino community leaders.

"Our state's Latino community is growing," said CL&P Communications Manager Dave Radanovich, "and Latino-owned businesses are responsible for much of the new commercial growth we've seen in recent years. NU and CL&P are committed to supporting the economic growth and social enrichment of the communities we serve."

"These meetings helped personalize these big utility companies by putting a human face on them," said Marilyn Alverio, principal of Ethnic Marketing Solutions in Hartford. "Attendees were impressed that these senior executives came to them, in the heart of their communities, rather than inviting them to visit corporate headquarters. It gave folks the chance to see NU and CL&P as caring neighbors, who are interested in the challenges the communities face, and want to get involved and help them succeed."



Alverio said she has received several emails and phone calls from community leaders eager to express their gratitude and enthusiasm about the opportunity to partner with NU and CL&P on targeted initiatives and programs. CL&P will be working to develop strategic partnerships with key Latino-centered organizations, focusing on education, economic development and the environment. Beyond providing financial support, the company will look for opportunities to provide in-kind services, from assistance with the development and printing of marketing materials, to youth mentoring, management-level coaching and more.

"We heard a lot about the need to help small businesses get established," said Radanovich, "so we'll look at helping to provide more workshops like the one run by the Spanish American Merchants Association in Hartford. We're also focused on raising environmental awareness among the population and supporting efforts to raise awareness of issues of specific importance to the communities."

Employees Feed by Giving: In one week, CL&P and NU employees showed their generosity and responded to an on-going food drive by filling five shopping carts with food and donating over \$200 to help local communities in need. The food was donated to the Newington Food Bank and will be distributed to Newington residents. Food Share will receive the cash donation to assist other area food banks in need. Newington's Human Services Director, Ken Friedenber, picked up the food with a team of volunteers and said, "As fast as the food is put on the shelf, it is being taken off from the huge demand of families in need." Last year, the town served 85 families and individuals each month through the food bank. So far in 2009, the town has served 130 families and individuals each month through its food bank.



**Connecticut
Light & Power**

The Northeast Utilities System

Connecticut Light & Power
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

www.cl-p.com