



## deer park broadcaster - news

### Building a foundation

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National Careers in Construction week kicked off in earnest at Deer Park High School's south campus as students learned about various aspects of the industry through speakers from local construction and trades companies.

Becon Construction Company, Inc., which is located in Deer Park off of Center Street, sent a representative to the south campus last Thursday to teach students about potential career paths that might be available to them once they leave high school and prepare to enter the workforce. Becon is a subsidiary of Bechtel Corporation, which is the world's largest privately held engineering and construction firm.

De'Ann Gill, Becon's Industrial relations manager, was on hand to provide valuable information and to provide answers to questions the students might have concerning the construction industry.

"We're just trying to help the kids understand that there are a lot of career options out there and to tell them about the earning potential. We're surrounded by industry and it's a very rewarding career," said Gill.

Cindy Dobbins, the Career and Technical Education Coordinator for the Deer Park Independent School District, spoke to the merits of the program and how it's being implemented to help students understand options that might be available to them once they finish high school.

"A lot of times students don't see the relevance of what they're learning and they don't see what it can be applied to. We want to expose students to what they are learning and how it can affect their life," said Dobbins. "We want students to understand that there's a reason they're going to school."

Jonathan Kendrick, a senior, comments that what he learned from the seminar was information concerning potential routes someone like him might take after high school.

"I learned a lot about the different trades you can do," said Kendrick.

For Deer Park junior Jacquelyn Schoppe, the most beneficial aspect of Thursday's seminar was information about the career potential the construction industry offers.

"I learned that the construction business has a lot more opportunities that you might think," said Schoppe.



Jacquelyn Schoppe and James Abshire participate with other students in a construction project utilizing spaghetti and marshmallows to build a simple structure as part of a construction-oriented class taught by Becon Construction's De'Ann Gill and hosted by Career and Technical Education Department at Deer Park High School.

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