



Rotary International Engineering
Scholarship Program
(RIESP)

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REISP Program Chairman

RIESP's Objective

To provide educational opportunities for students of Grand Bahama in the field of engineering in order that they can get a first-class education at a recognized University and to return to the Grand Bahama community where they can further Rotary's mandate of Nation-building.

Rotary Club of Lucaya

Chartered on November 17th, 1969 the Rotary Club of Lucaya has served the Grand Bahama community conscientiously since that date. RIESP is just one example of the many programs Rotary conducts to enhance the quality of life in the Bahamas.

In 1998 Rotarian Dudley Powell and former Rotarian Dr. Milton Robinson reached an agreement for the Rotary Club of Lucaya and Kettering University (formerly General Motors Institute) to cooperate in identifying Grand Bahama eleventh grade students to participate in a six-week pre-college engineering program at Kettering University. The intent of the program is to expose participating students to the rigors of college academics and the experiences of living on a college campus.

Kettering's pre college engineering program, officially know as AIM (Academically Interested Minds), annually provides forty 11th Graders from through the U.S. and the Caribbean with a six week classroom experience in science and mathematics and weekly visits to engineering companies. Participants who excel in the program are offered scholarships to enroll as engineering students following the completion of their senior year of high school.

Since the inception of this agreement, 54 Grand Bahama students received AIM scholarships from the Rotary Club of Lucaya. All but a few, have earned college scholarships and have gone on to enroll as full time engineering students at Kettering or other Top Universities in the US and Canada such as Georgia Tech, Drexel and Stanford. These students are from our High Schools here on Grand Bahama.

RIESP has grown tenfold since its inception eleven years ago. Many challenges arose and another Strategic Partner was found to assist us in developing the program to its present level. This partner is SECME.

SECME, Inc., a premier pre-college alliance, links engineering universities, school systems, and corporate/government investors. Its goal is to increase the pool of historically under-represented, under-served, and differently-abled students who will be prepared to enter and complete post-secondary studies in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. Their mandate is to renew and strengthen the professional capacity of K-12 educators, motivate and mentor students, and empower parents so that all students can learn and achieve at higher levels. They are headquartered at Georgia Tech.

SECME has since grown into the largest pre-college alliance in the United States, bringing together 40 Major Engineering Universities, 70 industries and government agencies, and 107 school systems representing 900 schools and 30,000 students in 17 states plus the District of

Columbia. SECME now reaches beyond the Southeast, to include school systems in New York, Indiana, Jamaica, and the Bahamas.

SECME partners with Fortune 500 companies such as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, National Space Biomedical Research Institute, EXXON/Mobile, Dupont, Hewlett Packard, Siemens Foundation, Lockheed Martin, Pratt & Whitney, John Deere, National Semiconductor Corporation/Global Connections, and the U.S. Department of Education to name a few!!!

We have utilized programs from SECME with great success. Local student competitions in engineering and design of the “Mousetrap” car, bottle rocketry, essay writing, banner and poster creating were introduced. The local winners are then sent to the United States to compete against the best of the other schools in the SECME program. Over the past three years, Grand Bahama participants have received national recognition in the mousetrap car and rocketry competitions. Year before last year we came first in the junior and the senior mousetrap competition and this year second and third. In 2013, we came 1st in the Juniors and 3rd in the Seniors; just one point out of 2nd, and in 2014 we were 4th and 5th. In 2015 we competed in the Primary/Elementary division and we came 1st! Our Senior and Junior teams placed 2nd and 4th respectively!

Depending on the location of these nationals, which is held at a different University each year, the cost varies, but on average, the cost of airfare and transportation would be roughly \$500 - \$700 per person. With two teams of three student and the chaperones the cost climbs easily to \$6,000.00 to \$7,000.00, which The Rotary Club of Lucaya funds. There is an understanding with SECME that the students will be fed and housed at the university. We are always looking for partnerships to assist us with this expense.

As of today we sent many of our Ministry of Education personnel, High School Principals and Vice-Principals, teachers, students and even parents to attended SECME programs and exposed them to this great program which espouses Rotary’s Ideal of Service to their fellow man.

Program Growth

Over the last five years the program has expanded and this has led to an increase in costs. To this end, six local foundations have joined Kettering in providing college scholarship dollars for Grand Bahama students to study engineering.

Local school administrators, teachers and parents have attended math, science courses at the SECME summer institute abroad. Under the guidance of Kettering University, student competitions are held in rocketry and building mousetrap cars.

Co-op Education Initiated

The hallmark of engineering education at Kettering University is the co-op education component. Students traditionally alternate 12-weeks of classroom study with 12-weeks of paid on-the-job training. Students from the Bahamas have engaged in co-op education at several Freeport companies, two U.S. corporations, and companies in Jamaica and Trinidad. The co-op education program is instrumental in helping companies to grow employees who are familiar with the uniqueness of their company and their corporate culture.

Co-Op Sponsors

- Bahamas Oil Refining Co. / Buckeye
- Grand Bahama Power Company
- Freeport Container Port
- Grand Bahama Port Authority

Scholarship Partners

- Kettering University
- SECME Inc.
- Grand Bahama Port Authority
- Wallace Groves Foundation
- Lyford Cay Foundation
- Rotary Club of Lucaya

One of our greatest successes was the winning of the *SECME "Teacher of the year"* by our local High School science teacher Mr. Anil Antony, who helped pioneered our mousetrap car competition and who took it to the winning position we have today. In 2014 we were the recipient of the prestigious *SECME 2014 Shaik Jeelani Selfless Service Award*. Out of the 900 Schools in 17 states of the US, we achieved these great honors.

Noteworthy information on our students:

The following students received a Fellowship to Graduate School:

- Travis Bethel Michigan State University - 2012
- Gadryn Higgs Stanford University – 2008
- Omar Martin Harvard University – 2002

The following students received the President's Medal (Highest Achievement Award given to a Kettering graduate):

- Gadryn Higgs 2008
- Omar Martin 2002

The following student was inducted into the Robot Society (Highest Honor Society at Kettering):

- Gadryn Higgs 2007

The following Bahamian companies have a Co-op program with Kettering University:

Freeport Container Port	Borco
Grand Bahama Power	Grand Bahama Port Authority
Bahamas Electricity Corp.	Pharma-Chem Technologies

Some of our partners in the program are:

- The Bahamas Society of Engineers
- The Grand Bahama Shipyard
- Bahamas Ministry of Education
- The Grand Bahama Science Teachers Association
- Participating Schools – All schools on Grand Bahama

We presently have a total of 9 students from various high schools in Grand Bahama at Kettering who are presently excelling in their respective programs.

When one reviews the benefits of RIESP and sees the positive impact on the students, educators and parents, it becomes apparent that this program must continue.

What a wonderful opportunity to promote the education of our youth and to ensure the promise of technology in the future.

We would like to recognize and express our sincere gratitude to those who were instrumental in developing this great program. And, to recognize and to express our congratulations to those who were recipients of this great program.

We are today, furthering Rotary's mandate of Nation-building!