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Front Page : March 2003

Paragon hosts career day

by Monique Roy

The classroom is not the only place where students learn about matters of the real world. More and more companies today are getting involved in educating students about their particular industries as a way to encourage the pursuit of higher learning and as an introduction to possible career choices.



Plano-based Paragon Innovations, Inc. is one such company opening its doors to students to show them the nuts and bolts of engineering and embedded systems design. On Feb. 5, about 32 students from Richardson Independent School District's (RISD) Lake Highlands Junior High visited Paragon Innovations to see demonstrations of some products created by Paragon.

Paragon is one of 11 companies participating in Technical Career Day, which is sponsored by the Education Committee of the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and the Metroplex Technology Business Council. More than 350 RISD eighth-grade students visited the companies and learned about various careers in technology. Technical Career Day occurs twice yearly in both the fall and the spring. The purpose of Technical Career Day is to encourage students to pursue a higher level of academics in math and science fields.

Paragon conducted an interactive learning experience for the students. Six to eight mentors (employees of the company) were provided to show students the challenges and innovations of the technology world. While at Paragon, the eighth-graders witnessed first-hand how Paragon-designed technologies are utilized. The students were allowed to touch, see and even use the products.

Various kinds of products were demonstrated, ranging from audio technology to the latest in medical technology. The 3M wall display is the "first of its kind" flat-screen presentation system that blends the latest in audio and visual technologies for multi-media presentations, movie viewing, and game playing. The Pulse Ozimeter shows oxygen saturation levels and

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an individual's pulse. SmartStart is a handheld device that prevents repeat DUI/DWI offenders from driving while intoxicated. U.S. LED is a neon replacement for outdoor signs that uses light-emitting, energy saving diodes to replace neon.

Michael Wilkinson, chief executive officer of Paragon, says he got involved in Technical Career Day because he wants to give back to the community. Technical Career Day is also a way to educate and promote the field of science and engineering, as well as show teenagers what it is like to be in small business, Wilkinson said. Of the 11 companies involved in the Technical Career Day, Paragon Innovations is the only small business. The other companies are large corporations, such as SBC Communications, Nortel Networks, Hewlett-Packard, Ericsson, Agilent Technologies, to name a few.

Paragon Innovations, founded in 1990, is a national product development provider specializing in the design, development and documentation of embedded systems in the commercial and consumer technology products. The company's technology experts have leveraged Paragon's precise, rapid-product development, methodology and documentation processes to create quality embedded systems for the wireless, telephony, medical, Internet, robotics and semiconductor industries, among others. Paragon is privately held and is located in the heart of North Texas' Telecom Corridor. Corporate neighbors include technology giants Alcatel, Cisco Systems, Ericsson, MCI, Nortel, Samsung and Texas Instruments.

Monica Roy is a freelance writer for Inside Business.

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Partly Cloudy

Sun Jun 08 04:46 PM CT
 Temperature: 82°F/28°C
 Humidity: 51%
 Barometer: 29.96in/1016mb
 Winds: NW at 6mph/10kph

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