



### **3M Technical Teams Encouraging Career Horizons (TECH)**

Purpose and Challenge: To encourage students of all genders and races to consider careers in science, engineering and technology

The aim of the TECH program is to broaden students understanding of what science and engineering careers are—that is, who goes into these jobs and how did they get there?

Middle and high school are exactly the time that most students ‘self-eliminate’ themselves from science career pathway. Science and math seem too hard, not tied to real life and too much of a hassle. Typically students have few or no role models for what a scientific career could be or why it is fun and rewarding!

Classroom visits are designed to provide students, especially women and minorities, with the opportunity to meet and interact with female and male role models who enjoy technical careers. 3M volunteers from a variety of technical job positions, degree levels and backgrounds participate. We communicate to students that “you don’t have to be a genius” to have a successful technical career. We offer “I did it, you can too!”

The classroom visit encourages questions from the students. It may include any of the following: scientists sharing stories from their own career path, guidance on courses to take now to prepare for college, demonstration of the products or technology the scientist/engineer has developed as part of their job, and the facts around technical careers (salaries, types of jobs available, high demand for trained persons, etc.)

#### **How does the program work?**

The program operates as a once a school year match between the 3M TECH team and a science teacher at a middle or high school in the Twin Cities East Metro area. In the fall, an invitation to register for the program is sent to teachers. Teachers fill out a ‘school questionnaire’ with basic information about their students and the class(es) they teach. Matches are announced in January; TECH visits are scheduled for the Spring semester.

TECH teams are assigned on a first come, first serve basis. We are only able to send one team per school and in the interest of the volunteers we ask that you try to limit the school periods to 4 hours total.