

UIL Celebrates National Engineers' Week

When you flip a light switch, start your car or grab a bottle of shampoo, engineering probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. But without engineers we wouldn't be able to meet many of the basic – and not so basic – needs in our lives. Engineers solve problems, and their research and ideas help to make a difference in a variety of industries including ours, the electric and gas business.

In recognition of National Engineers Week, February 16 – 22, United Illuminating's (UI) Engineering and Project Excellence group teamed up with internal and external partners to host a "Lunch & Learn" series that looked at different engineering projects and the benefits they provide.

Lunch & Learn topics included:

- Robotics, where students from a local career high school and their UI Mentors reported on their Team's robotic designs and challenges as they prepare for regional competitions
- An overview of the roles and structure of New England region's independent system operator (ISO) and the dynamics involved in trading energy and services, and clearing auctions while ensuring system balance for all New England
- A report on the installation of a gas pipeline under the Connecticut River utilizing horizontal drilling techniques and an overview of the natural gas system
- An update by the Connecticut Department of Transportation project manager and engineers on the multi-year replacement of the Pearl Harbor Memorial ("Q") bridge in New Haven.

The week's events ended with a Slide Rule completion, to show what engineers had to enjoy in "BC" times (Before Calculators)! This series is but one of several events UIL personnel are involved with throughout the year to foster a better understanding of our Industry to our employees and the communities we serve.

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