



Association for Bridge Construction & Design

Northeastern Ohio Chapter · www.abcdneoh.org

September 4, 2008

Dear Membership,

Recently several of our members have expressed a desire for greater involvement in volunteer activities in the local community. Our education committee chairman William Vermes has volunteered in the Berea public schools for many years, organizing the annual K'Nex bridge building project. The ABCD education committee has examined developing more volunteer opportunities by extending the K'Nex program to include the Cleveland Public Schools. Please see the attached summary for a description of the K'Nex project, which we feel is a great program that reaches out to our community and fosters interest in structural engineering.

In order to establish a new program such as the K'Nex program with a Cleveland public school, we believe that it is best to utilize an existing volunteer program in which our members can participate, assist in the educational development of the youth, and eventually promote engineering through a future K'Nex program.

One such existing program offers opportunities to tutor reading and math in several Cleveland schools located on the east and west sides, and at the Juvenile Justice Center near downtown. Volunteers in the program typically tutor one hour per week at a particular school October through May, during typical school hours. Grade levels range from elementary school through high school. Training for tutors is provided. This volunteer program is organized by the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland; (the program has no religious component).

In addition to the academic assistance provided by tutoring, this program should further the educational mission of our organization by putting students in contact with practicing bridge industry professionals, who could serve as sources of advice and potential mentors. As tutors establish relationships with the particular school in which they volunteer, the potential also exists that more bridge-specific programs, such as the K'Nex project, could be established in these schools.

If you are interested in learning more, please e-mail me at dbaxter@mbakercorp.com. We are hoping to garner interest by September 12, 2008, so please respond by then. I will work to arrange an informational lunch with the coordinator of the volunteer program for those who are interested. Thank you for considering this activity.

Sincerely,

Daniel Baxter, E.I.T.
Vice President, ABCD NEOH