

Teacher Ricky Lewis of Guilford County Schools was selected to work with the Center for Advanced Materials and Smart Structures (CAMSS) in the College of Engineering at NC A&T State University (A&T). A summer outreach activity was planned along with the Engineers Starters Program (COE) for area high school students and the CAMSS program was coordinated by Dr. Cindy Waters. CAMSS, headed by Prof. J. Sankar, is a University-approved center encompassing research and educational activities in advanced materials and smart structures.

CAMSS faculty, Dr. Waters, Dr. Devdas Pai, Dr. Salil Desai, Dr. Dhananjay Kumar and Mr. Lewis worked to deliver a "Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials" workshop as a part of The College of Engineering's, Engineer Starters Programs (ESP), led by Mr. Vernal Alford. The term, "Nano-" itself means a billionth of a meter. This is 100,000 times smaller than a human hair. Workshop participants represented a diverse group of individuals with interests in disciplines ranging from Middle School Science to High School Technology. 22 high students from area schools participated in 2 different week long workshops, one during June and the other during July.

The session activities were partly based on educational materials developed by the Center for Nanoscale Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing Systems (Nano-CEMSS) at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and from Materials World Modules created at Northwestern University. They ranged from discovering the scale of a nanometer, and exploring the nanotechnology revolution to investigating the Materials Science of sports equipment. Students discovered how advanced materials are used in all aspects of their lives and what an exciting field of study this can be.