



Illinois Fluid Power Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Members are invited to participate in the following ongoing opportunities and future events unique to the Illinois region. Each can help increase your company's visibility with students and educators surrounding Triton Community College, NFPA's Illinois Fast Track HUB, and build awareness for the fluid power industry.

- **Ongoing Opportunities:**

- *Participate in NFPA's Speaker's Bureau at Illinois Partner Schools*
 - Speaker's Bureau is an opportunity to inspire and excite students about career opportunities in the fluid power industry
 - **Ridgewood High School – best days Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays**
 - **Proviso West High School - flexible**
 - **NFPA can connect you with the schools**
- *Visit Triton College's Engineering Technology Classes & Meet with Students*
 - Increase your hiring reach and connect with Triton's educators and students, especially students in the Mechatronics and Mechanical Design courses
 - **Meet with educators, speak with the students, and tour the labs**
 - **Timing: January (late), February, April, and May (9AM-1PM and 5PM-8PM (CT))**
 - **NFPA can connect you with Triton's Engineering Technology educators**
- *Host a Facility Tour for Students and Educators*
 - Facility tours are an engaging way for students to learn about your company, products and services, and potential pathways to careers
 - Illinois partner schools are interested in facility tours
 - **NFPA can communicate your tour information to schools and offer grants that help reduce school participation barriers**

- **December 2023 Opportunities:**

- *Leyden High School District 212 – Robotics Team is Seeking Pneumatics Help*
 - The team is building a "battle-bot" robot for the annual Robot Rumble.
 - It's seeking an expert or mentor to meet virtually and help improve the use of pneumatics in the robot's design and build
 - **James Foster can connect you with the educator lead**



- **January 2024 Opportunities:**

- *January 10 Illinois Workforce Engagement Group Meeting & Member/H.S. Student Event*
 - **Ridgewood Community High School 7500 W. Montrose Ave., Norridge, IL 60706**
 - January 10 meeting (9:30 – 10:30AM CT) + Table-Top member / student connection event (10:50-11:25AM CT)
 - **Register here:** <https://nationalfluidpowerassociation.swoogo.com/JanLWEG>
 - Table-top (6ft tables) event: help students learn about your company in a fun and casual way. Demonstrate your products and services; let them engage in hands-on learning; and tell them about your company
 - **Students also respond to candy, treats, and swag, per Ridgewood staff!**
- *January 17 Ridgewood High School Fluid Power Action Challenge – Workshop Day*
 - Ridgewood High School (Norridge, IL) is hosting the event
 - Fluid Power Action Challenge is a hands-on, team-based machine build challenge that introduces middle schoolers (8th graders) to fluid power, the industry, and companies through volunteer participation
 - Workshop Day introduces the event, industry, and competition to teams from J. Giles (9:30am CT) and Union Ridge (10:30am CT) middle schools
 - Help teams connect STEM classroom learning to the hands-on event by helping students think through engineering problems
 - **Contact James Foster by January 10, 2024, to volunteer**

- **March 2024 Opportunities:**

- *March 20 Ridgewood High School Fluid Power Action Challenge – Challenge Day*
 - Ridgewood High School (Norridge, IL) is hosting the event
 - Help teams from Ridgewood’s feeder middle schools finalize machines
 - **Multiple Judges** are needed (Noon – 3pm CT) to help teams think through engineering questions, interview teams, evaluate portfolios, and score competitions
 - **A Speaker is also** needed for the Family Showcase (5pm-6pm CT). Share your journey into fluid power, information about your company, and potential education and career pathways. Your presentation can help students and parents better understand the industry and post-secondary options.
 - **Volunteering allows you to give back, as you build awareness for your company**
 - **Contact James Foster by March 1, 2024, to volunteer**



Contact James Foster (JFoster@nfpa.com) to volunteer or learn more about these opportunities and events. Similar activities are taking place in our other Fast Track Hub regions. Click here to join a [Workforce Engagement Group](#) and stay informed of the latest opportunities to recruit and engage with emerging talent in the regions.