**“Manufacturers Encourage Kids Toward STEM Careers”**

 March 25, 2014

The Manufacturers Caring for Pickens County (MCPC) recently participated in STEM Family Night at Crosswell Elementary School.  Part of the school event, organized by Guidance Counselor Kelley Ponder, included a STEM Career Fair: Spotlight on Manufacturing.  The career fair incorporated a career oriented scavenger hunt and a "tabletop" show of products and careers with area manufacturers. Students were encouraged to ask detailed questions of the manufacturers about job skills, products, technology and education.   Parents also participated in the discussions.

One of the presenters, John Smith, Production Manager of Tri Tech USA, commented, "I was encouraged by the level of interest that each of the children showed. They asked insightful questions that let me know that they were deeply engaged in learning."

The event was well received by all of the attendees.

"Pickens County is full of amazing opportunities in the field of manufacturing!  Through MCPC's collaboration and support, I'm learning first-hand about diverse careers and essential skillsets companies are looking for in their employees.  I believe that helping students and families explore potential jobs and careers located right in our own backyard is a beginning step to building solid, exciting futures for Pickens County kids" said Kelley Ponder.

The MCPC consists of seven local manufacturing companies, whose mission is to enhance economic development, job skills, education and quality of life in Pickens County.

Pictures available