

Outreach Report

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On April 18th, 2016 our team performed our outreach activity at LaFollette High School for about a 28 student Sophomore science class and 8 students in the after school science club consisting of students from each year of high school. The after school science club consisted of minority students, but the classroom consisted of students from all demographics. Since the students were high schoolers we wanted a fun and easy activity that showed them a little bit more about biomaterials. Our alginate activity provided a fun way to show how alginate beads are formed. We discussed the use of alginate in biomedical engineering such as how it can be used in drug delivery and wound healing. We also gave the students a little bit of background about ourselves and how the biomedical engineering programs works at UW-Madison.

We didn't really have any constraints for our outreach activity. We were able use a presentation with pictures in order to further explain about BME and our outreach activity. The students seemed to have fun with our activity. The after school science club was definitely more interested in learning about BME and were more open to asking questions and chatting with our team as we walked around to oversee the activity. The activity went better the second time around because we were able to connect more with the students by asking them more about themselves and we finished giving out the instructions for the activity before they headed back to the tables to perform the activity. If we were to do our activity again, we would continue to try and connect more with the audience and make sure that our learning objectives for our activity are clear for our outreach participants.

Each member of our team contributed equally to the presentation in the creation of slides as well as presenting. Each teammate gave a brief summary of their experiences with BME. Haley started of the presentation by asking what the students though biomedical engineering was and discussing its definition as well as talking about the bioinstrumentation track. Michal then discussed the Biomechanics track, Lizzie discussed the Biomaterials/Tissue Engineering track, Madison discussed the Human Factors track, and Katie discussed the Medical Imaging track and introduced the students to the topic of alginate. Lizzie then went through the instructions for the activity, Michal talked about the contest for largest and most amount of beads, and after our activity was completed Madison did a wrap up. During the activity, each teammate went around and talked with the students to see if they had any questions. Haley did most of the communication in setting up the outreach activity and writing the proposal, but each member went through the activity beforehand and made sure we had all necessary materials.