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One of the World-Class social and technical advantages of living in Rochester NY is the Rochester Engineering Society. Where else does the Technical community come together under one roof? (Actually I did some digging in the late 1990's, and found only seven other US cities with a similar umbrella organization.) Just what is the value added by having such an organization?

Let me focus on Outreach for just one example. For years now, two-time Past President Lee Loomis has been placing almost two dozen Literacy Tutors in a Rochester City School. **They work on the reading skills of 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders, which is the academic point where your future as a reader, and therefore as a successful student, is basically decided.**

The RES is also pursuing STEM support across thirteen Rochester School Districts, by placing technical people (not just Engineers), in Upstate classrooms as Volunteer STEM Coaches. The Federal government has made STEM delivery a major Education Objective. Does such legislation instantly make every teacher a STEM Guru? Even the best teacher is not likely to have innumerable application examples for the topic being taught; unless he or she worked in a STEM related field for 20 years before becoming a teacher. The RES STEM Initiative places one or two Engineers, Machinists, Entrepreneurs, Doctors etc., in classrooms, as a significant technical resource and **the source of real-world application examples for the topics the teacher is trying to deliver.** The resulting incentive to, and likelihood of, students remembering the technical topic, is greatly increased. These stem volunteers are also surprisingly helpful at bringing or

**building support hardware to make so many of these technical topics "Hands-On."**

The RES also affects technical life on a bigger scale. Let's suppose that you are a member of a technical organization, and you are scheduling a meeting where you hope for seventy-five attendees, to hear a talk about Rochester's role in the making of NASA's Chandra Space Telescope. Such a presentation might be of interest to Optical Engineers, Imaging Science Gurus, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers... In Rochester, you have access to a web-based calendar, helping you avoid picking a night in conflict with some other technical event; and you use the *Rochester Engineer* magazine to invite 3,400 engineers. In most other cities, your announcement bulletin would reach only the members of your particular engineering organization.

Let's step back even farther and look at the Rochester community as a whole. I have a neighbor who is temporarily relegated to a wheel chair. Knowing that I was a member of the RES, she asked if I could recommend someone who might cobble-up an equally temporary ramp for her front steps.

We live in a world where networking is key to success. I do not know of a better placed network-hub for people of a technical bend, than the RES.