



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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My Block, My Hood, My City, My Water: MWRD engages future leaders



Treatment Plant Operator Camille Valdes, MWRD President Kari K. Steele, Commissioner Kim Du Buclet and Assistant Director of Monitoring and Research Tom Kunetz led students from My Block My Hood My City on an educational tour of activity at Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.

Commissioners, engineers, scientists and human resources analysts from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) recently partnered with the My Block My Hood My City (MBMHMC) organization to give Chicago high school students an inside look at how the MWRD manages wastewater and protects the local water environment through a diverse range of skills.

President Kari K. Steele and Commissioner Kim Du Buclet and staff presented students from Collins Academy High School with a behind-the-scenes view of work at Stickney Water Reclamation Plant to see how the MWRD keeps one of the world's largest wastewater treatment plants running.

The high school students toured the Stickney WRP Pump and Blower building and various treatment tanks

with Treatment Plant Operator II Camille Valdes followed by a tour of the plant's trades shop with Assistant Master Mechanic Pam Taylor to learn about various trades employed at the MWRD, including electricians, painters, pipefitters and carpenters. The tour concluded with the microscopic examination of microbes involved in the wastewater treatment process given by MWRD Principal Environmental Scientist Dr. Geeta Rijal and Lab Tech II Brandon Reynolds.

The tour exposed the students to the wide range of work and skills required to protect the water environment each day. Tom Kunetz, Assistant Director of Monitoring and Research for the MWRD and current president of the Water Environment Federation, a global organization of water professionals, arranged the visit and helped lead the tour coordinated by the MWRD Human Resources Department. *(continued)*

My Block, My Hood, My City, My Water: MWRD engages future leaders, *cont.*



Students visit Stickney Water Reclamation Plant with MWRD staff as part of a tour organized through My Block My Hood My City. The MWRD dedicates resources to educate the public on how they can contribute toward improving their water environment.



MBMHMC provides youth with new experiences, exposing them to possibilities beyond their own communities. Its mission is to help teenagers overcome the poverty and isolation they face, boosting educational attainment and opening them to opportunities that make a difference in their lives.

The Stickney WRP serves 2.3 million people within 260 square miles, covering central Chicago and 46 other communities, to treat up to 1.44 billion gallons of water per day.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.