

STEM Ambassador Programme

Case study: STEM Ambassador – Neil Chattle

Overview

Neil Chattle is Head of Corporate Heritage and Chief Executive of The Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust with facilities all over the UK and Indianapolis, USA. Neil has been a STEM Ambassador since 2009. In the last three years he has participated in over 60 STEM activities – with 17 in the last six months - throughout the UK/Ireland.



Education/career journey

Neil has worked at Rolls-Royce for 39 years with increasing levels of responsibility and accountability in culturally diverse environments. He has had many achievements throughout his education and career including:

- Lord Hives Award as top graduating apprentice
- Tony McCandless Award for outstanding application of continuous learning and development
- 1st Class BEng (Honours) degree in Mechanical Engineering
- Institution of Mechanical Engineers Frederic Barnes Waldron award
- School prize for best engineering student on BEng course
- Alumni Fellow of Nottingham Trent University, Science and Technology and Business Schools
- Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society FRAeS
- Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineering (IMechE)
- STEM Ambassador for the Bloodhound project which aims to break the world land speed record.

Neil said, "I can see that Rolls-Royce clearly needs to have a strong future pipeline of well-qualified scientists, engineers and mathematicians. It is critical to the future success of our company. I am totally motivated, and a STEM Ambassador Champion as part of my business as well as the wider organisation; to promote and participate in our companies STEM education programmes to inspire the children of the future to study STEM related subjects. I also hope I am an inspiration to others in the company - still being involved, inventive and innovative in STEM activities."



Neil continued, "I am a role model, demonstrating the lifelong opportunities that STEM careers can offer. My passion for STEM goes beyond my area of the business and increases the already global Rolls-Royce STEM Ambassador network. I am one of the most experienced STEM Ambassadors and a key link in helping the company reach a global target of 25 million people through our STEM education programmes and activities by 2030. As I am at the forefront of promoting STEM, more sectors of the company can see the benefits of investing in STEM education, to widen the talent pool that Rolls-Royce will be able to recruit from in the future including an increasing number of females."

STEM Ambassador activities

Neil engages with STEM activities in schools, universities, at exhibitions, careers fairs, Rolls-Royce Science Prize projects and Big Bang Fairs. He varies his level of engagement across differing age groups from junior to secondary and university.



Neil's major activity over the past six years has been the Rolls-Royce Schools Prize for Science and Technology, mentoring a finalist school over an academic year to deliver their STEM project. His many other STEM activities have varied from employability skills sessions, interactive networking, hands on practical's, career talks and actively supporting events. He also hosts STEM visits to Rolls-Royce and his Heritage facility in Derby, so children can relate STEM activities to seeing real-life engineering applications and their use in the wider world.

Neil is always evolving his interactions with students - pushing the boundaries to inspire them into careers in STEM. He recently introduced a Newton's kit to explain to children in junior/secondary schools the laws of motion and how they relate to aircraft. He also investigates new ways to invent practical applications of hands-on activities, to use in outreach activities, such as the jet engine model challenge.

Impact

Neil said, "My key objective has always been, if I can get one young person to consider a career in STEM – that they wouldn't otherwise have pursued - then I have been successful."

Neil was invited to perform a talk at Derby Pride Academy, a school for pupils omitted from mainstream education and received very complementary feedback from the employability programme manager, "I wanted to take the chance to send a huge thank you for supporting our students. They can be a tricky crowd so the fact that they sat through the talk is a massive positive."



Neil's also supported Talent 2030, the National Engineering Competition for Girls, which addresses the current gender imbalance in the UK engineering workforce. At every STEM event he attends he inspires the young minds of today and opens the world of STEM to the STEM Ambassadors of tomorrow.

Recognition

Neil has recently been awarded the STEM Inspiration Award – from STEM Learning – for Outstanding STEM Ambassador. The award recognises those with a long-standing body of engagement with the STEM Ambassadors programme, recognising achievement over a prolonged period.

Neil said, “I feel so honoured and privileged to have won this prestigious award in such a strong field of other individuals – all just as deserving for the work they do in promoting STEM for the next generation. The award is a cumulation of many years of dedicated effort alongside my full-time job and would do it all over again given the chance”.

Future plans

Neil is in the process of planning the move of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Centre within the Aerospace campus in Derby and is taking this opportunity to integrate interactive STEM activities within the new Heritage layout to educate and inspire the next generation.

More information

If you would like to share your own involvement as a STEM Ambassador, please follow our:

- [HUB twitter account](#) and tag us into your posts about your STEM activity using the hashtag #STEMAmbassadors.
- [LinkedIN company page](#) and join our [HUB group](#)
- [Instagram page](#) and tag us into your photos showcasing your STEM involvement using the hashtag #STEMAmbassadors.

If you are inspired about Neil’s story and would like to know more about becoming a STEM Ambassador or working with a STEM Ambassador, please email ambassadors@debp.org