

Philadelphia's La Salle Academy Celebrates Successful After-School STEM Program with Local Manufacturer, Airline Hydraulics



Our **La Salle Academy** alumni are thrilled to share the success of our recent partnership with **Airline Hydraulics**, a local manufacturer that's been part of the Philadelphia community for 75 years. This collaboration brought an engaging educational after-school STEM program to our 7th graders, offering them a unique, hands-on experience with industrial computer systems through Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) programming.

The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive. **Sherrell**, one of the participants, found the programming aspect less daunting as she got the hang of it, thanks to the instructors' clear explanations. **Angel** enjoyed the practical side of the program, especially the project where they programmed a traffic light system, highlighting the fun and rewarding aspects of their hard work.

Michael Shackelford Peña-Taylor II, a dedicated 7th-grade teacher at La Salle Academy, spoke highly of the program's impact. It was not just a win for the engineering curriculum but also a door-opener for students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds in STEM, showing them the endless possibilities the field offers.

The program's success has ensured that Airline Hydraulics will be back next year, offering a new 15-week course to another group of eager 7th graders. This ongoing partnership is a testament to the real-life benefits of connecting students with real-world applications and industries, enriching their education, and potentially shaping their future careers.