

Ecotek Student Scientist Visits Nuclear Lab

Nuclear physics is a dense subject. For some students it is boring, but for Antoine Crews, nuclear technology is not only interesting it is way cool. Mr. Crews visited the nuclear physics laboratory on the campus of Michigan State University. He met with leading researchers to gather information on a broad set of topics ranging from the chemical properties of uranium 235 to how to build a cosmic ray detector. He also got the rare opportunity to view a newly constructed particle accelerator in the lab's "clean room".

The National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) is a world leader in rare isotope research and nuclear science education. Located on the campus of Michigan State University, NSCL scientists and researchers employ a wide range of tools for conducting advanced research in fundamental nuclear science, nuclear astrophysics, and accelerator physics.

Michigan State University is one of only a few universities to have a fully-functioning nuclear cyclotron program. The facility was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and is absolutely first rate. NSCL operates two superconducting cyclotrons. The K500 was the world's first cyclotron to use superconducting magnets and the K1200 is the highest-energy continuous beam accelerator in the nation.



It has everything from state of the art particle accelerators to clean rooms to mega size magnets that can determine the weight of an atom down to the nanogram. They even have a device called MONA that filters out neutrons during the atom decomposition process. Wow!

The visit to the Cyclotron lab was not only a great learning experience, it also helped fill in some critical information gaps for Antoine, who will be traveling to the United Nations to debate on the best methods and policies for protecting nuclear material from terrorists as well as coming up with ways to ensure that countries with nuclear capabilities are using the technology for peaceful purposes, such as generating electricity.



About the Ecotek Science Program

Ecotek is a program within the Motor City Model UN Club, a 501c3 organization. It provides students ages 10 to 17 with the opportunity to work on science projects to help them better understand the role that science plays in policy making within international organizations like the United Nations. The students work on a diverse set of projects ranging from combating AIDS to protecting the environment. Once they have reviewed the UN treaties and have completed their lab research, the students meet with world leaders at the UN to share what they have learned.

To learn more about the program and the students highlighted in this press release, please contact Keith Young at 313-399-7893 or email him at keiyoung@ecotek-us.com