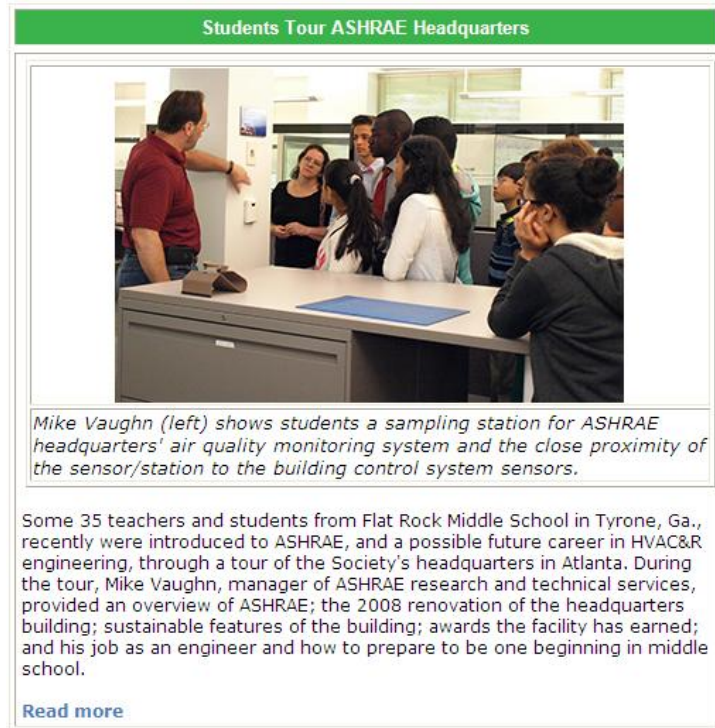


# Students Tour ASHRAE HQ

Some 35 teachers and students from Flat Rock Middle School in Tyrone, Ga., recently were introduced to ASHRAE, and a possible future career in HVAC&R engineering, through a tour of the Society's headquarters in Atlanta.

The tour came about via an invitation from Presidential Member Tom Watson to eighth-grade math teacher Monica Reckley, about a year ago while both were attending a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) meeting in Washington, D.C.

During the tour, Mike Vaughn, manager of ASHRAE research and technical services, provided an overview of ASHRAE; the 2008 renovation of the headquarters building; sustainable features of the building; awards the facility has earned; and his job as an engineer and how to prepare to be one beginning in middle school.



“At the start of the tour, I didn’t get a lot of questions from the students so I started to become concerned that maybe what I was presenting was too technical or worse, boring,” Vaughn said. “Near the end of the tour, however, I got a lot more questions from the students and I was really encouraged when nearly all the students raised their hand at the end of the tour when I asked ‘How many of you now might want to someday become an engineer?’”

Each student was given an ASHRAE drawstring fabric bag containing ASHRAE brochures and a copy of Vaughn’s presentation. The brochures target middle school and high school students with information about engineering as a career.

“After school let out that same day, I was pleasantly surprised to get a phone call from one the students on the tour with a follow-up question on the green roof,” said Vaughn.