



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

**Allison Fore**

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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## Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day provides students unique opportunity to experience the mission of MWRD



Whether they dream to be chemists, engineers, treatment plant operators, lawyers or accountants, children of Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) staff members had the opportunity to see what these careers could look like by participating in the MWRD's pilot version of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Eighteen students participated in the interactive day-long event to inspire youth to dream big. The full schedule included information sessions by the Engineering, Maintenance and Operations, and Monitoring and Research Departments. A group project was created in conjunction with the Public Affairs Department as the youth conceptualized a public service announcement on how to inspire their peers to protect the waterways. The day also included an educational tour of the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, the largest water reclamation facility in the world.

This unique experience allowed the 12-18 year old participants a behind-the-scenes view of the various steps involved in the MWRD's used water treatment and stormwater management process. There was discussion about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers and the role that everyone plays in protecting the region's water environment. While the event began with anticipation of a day of learning outside of the traditional classroom settings, by the end of the event, the young people expressed a newfound appreciation for the work their parents do.

"MWRD staff from a multitude of disciplines work every day to improve water quality and prevent flooding in Cook County," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "This event allowed us to share a glimpse of who we are and what we do, while creating an opportunity for our future employees to imagine themselves working in their parents' footsteps."

### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*