

## Center Completes 4th Annual NSF Site Visit

The CCEFP completed its 4th NSF site visit following a full day of review by the site visit team. Comprehensive presentations on the Center's four research test beds were given along with reviews of the Center's overall research goals and accomplishments, Education & Outreach programs, and Industrial Collaboration efforts. Graduate students presented detailed posters of the Center's research projects and made short presentations for the site visit team during the poster show.

In addition to the posters, researchers from Georgia Tech brought along a portable version of their excavator simulator allowing users to experience operating an excavator using both traditional and haptic controllers. Representatives from the Science Museum of Minnesota were on-hand to provide interactive demonstrations of both their cutaway swashplate pump and their hydro-table. Also on display were several other E&O hands-on displays including the portable fluid power demonstrator, regenerative pedicab, hydraulic arm wrestling machine, energy storing orthosis, pneumatic haptic interface, pneumatics kit, and hydraulic AFO simulator. The Center's outreach efforts were well represented by students in the gidaa program from the Albrook School (Cloquet) who attended to showcase their interactive robotics projects.

## Students Host Interactive Fluid Power Exhibit

CCEFP students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) hosted an interactive fluid power exhibit during the annual student-led Engineering Open House (EOH), which took place March 12-13. Featured in the display was the CCEFP portable fluid power demonstrator, developed by Dr. John Lumkes and Jose Garcia at Purdue University to educate the public on basic fluid power concepts. Visitors at the open house were given the opportunity to try one of the two demonstrators on-hand after receiving a basic lesson on how the hydraulic cylinders worked. During the event, several hundred visitors passed through the CCEFP display ranging for small children to adults. In addition to the demonstrators, research on hydrophobic materials and the fluid power assisted orthosis was presented. CCEFP member company Festo was also on hand at the event and wowed audiences with their pneumatically powered Airmotion ride driving simulator.

The UIUC Engineering Open House features two days of exciting exhibits and competitions that showcase the talent and ingenuity of engineering students. The exposition attracts thousands of visitors to the Illinois campus each year and stands as the largest event of its kind in the country. EOH brings together students, faculty, and corporate sponsors to feature cutting-edge innovation in the fields of science and technology to inspire the next generation of engineers through engaging hands-on demonstrations.

**For more information, visit [www.ccefp.org](http://www.ccefp.org).**