



Liz Eaton talks to students at Brown County Junior High about her career as an Engineer for a medical device company.



Liz helped students build fidget spinners in order to demonstrate the relevance that engineering can have in everyday life.

## Engineering the future

### Liz Eaton visits Brown county junior high

**C**hances are the majority of the objects you encounter in your daily life were engineered by someone, from the desk or chair that you sit at to the car that you drive. This is what **Liz Eaton**, team lead for Aortic Intervention Engineering at Park 48, wanted to get across to the students at Brown County Junior High.

“My goal was to have them come away realizing how much engineering they already use in their daily lives and feel that it is something they can do,” Liz said.

Liz visited the school on August 25 to talk to the students about engineering as part of the school’s effort to teach their students about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. In order to show them how relevant, creative, and interesting engineering can be, Liz had the students build fidget spinners. She provided them with just enough parts to build the fidget spinner and walked them through the process. At the end of the activity, she asked them how they could make the finished product better.

“For example, the center stem is exactly as long as it needs to be, which is fine, but if you wanted to make a hundred of these it would be easier if it was a little longer,” Liz said.

For Liz, the most rewarding part of the experience was seeing how engaged the students were. She said they provided her with great suggestions on how to improve the fidget spinners, such as how they could make them more steady or easier to assemble.

“That was really the secret goal of all of this was to get them to realize that this is something they can do themselves, they can figure out how to make something better,” Liz said.

According to Liz, a career in engineering and other STEM fields can seem daunting to young students. However, she encourages those that are interested not to be intimidated.

“I think our society needs a lot of professionals in that area,” Liz said. “Cook in particular needs people able to do that and a lot of people can do it and have a lot to bring to the field.”

Liz delved into various different career fields while she was in high school and in college, not all of them necessarily pertaining to Engineering. However, she said that these experiences were still relevant because they helped her learn what she was looking for in a career.

“I think that the most important message that I would pass along is you should follow what you are interested in whatever that may be because it all can apply,” Liz said.

— **Ashley McGuire** (ashley.jones2@cookmedical.com) is the publications specialist at Park 48.



Pictured is one of the finished fidget spinners that Liz helped students at Brown County Junior High build during her visit in August. **Davorin Skender**, **Matt Wildridge**, and **Dennis Maddox** (all Park 48 Research and Development) helped by machining parts for the spinners.