

A peek at careers in STEM

LI students hear from employers at Cradle expo

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High school students from seven Long Island schools gathered at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Monday to hear from engineers, scientists and technicians about careers in STEM.

Set against the backdrop of replica biplanes, jets and lunar landers, more than 225 students sat in on rotating 15-minute presentations from local engineering firms and manufacturers to learn about careers.

Most students "don't know the opportunities that are actually available to them," said Christine Gonzalez, education director at the museum. "This is a way for them to be informed and stay engaged with what's in their backyard."

The museum's STEM Career Expo, in its 10th year, aims to give mostly 10th- and 11th-grade students the chance to speak with professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"When you hear engineering, I feel like it can be overwhelming, especially as a 10th-grader or a senior in high school, so it's nice to be able to relieve some of that anxiety for them," said Jack Zepernick, a mechanical engineer with Cameron Engineering & Associates in Woodbury, a consultancy and presenter at the expo.

"I did not get to go on trips like this," Zepernick said.



Kellenberg Memorial High School students attend a presentation at the Long Island STEM Career Expo.

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Behind the event is the need to develop talent pipelines for jobs in the future, said company attendees.

"If we get the kids in high school interested, then we can influence the colleges to be interested," said Edward Sottile, director of manufacturing engineering equipment operations at Oerlikon Metco Inc. in Westbury, an expo presenter.

Sottile said it's very hard to find workers with the required skills, and the need is even

more acute to fill on-the-floor machinist jobs. The company is a Swiss-owned manufacturer of spray coatings for automobile and aviation parts.

He said he wants students to know that manufacturing has evolved dramatically and isn't the "dark, dingy workplace" they may have seen on TV.

"We're trying to counter that by showing that it's full of automation and a lot more advanced technology," he said. "You can make a really

good living, too."

Damyrna Neas, 15, a sophomore at Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, said before the expo she had considered following in her father's footsteps and pursuing a career in IT. After the morning presentations, she said she's thinking about a career in aviation.

"I always have had a love of computers and technology," Neas said. "When I got here, I just felt more enthusiastic about it."

HIGHER LIMITS FOR 2023 IRA CONTRIBUTORS

Bankrate.com (TNS)

The IRS has good news for workers who use traditional or Roth IRAs to save for retirement.

In 2023, you'll be able to contribute an additional \$500 to either account. It's the first increase since 2019, bringing the total annual contribution limit to \$6,500. Those savers 50 and older can contribute an additional \$1,000.

The IRS also has increased the income ranges on IRAs, allowing you to earn more money and still take advantage of the tax-free Roth account or the tax-deferred traditional IRA.

You will also be able to save more through workplace retirement plans such as 401(k)s and 403(b)s in 2023.

Here's are details:

- Maximum contributions to employer-sponsored plans got a boost to \$22,500 for 2023, including 401(k) and 403(b) plans. Those older than 50 can make catch-up contributions of \$7,500.
- The contribution limit on a SIMPLE IRA, another workplace plan, also increased to \$15,500 from \$14,000 in 2022.

Income limits are climbing modestly for IRAs. For 2023, the limits on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) to be eligible for a Roth IRA are as follows:

- For an individual, head of household, the maximum income for a full contribution is \$138,000, and contributions phase out at \$153,000.
- For married couples filing jointly, the maximum income for a full contribution is \$218,000, and contributions phase out at \$228,000.

In 2022, the Roth IRA limits were \$129,000 to \$144,000 for individuals and heads of household, and \$204,000 to \$214,000 for married couples filing jointly.

However, if you still want to take advantage of the account, you may be able to use a backdoor Roth IRA, but you'll want to ask a tax adviser about the tax consequences.

Whiplash amid Musk Twitter upheaval

Bloomberg News

Twitter Inc. entered its second full week under Elon Musk with half its workforce, mounting losses and unexpected reversals to its plans.

The social-media company laid off close to 3,700 people Friday, only to reach out soon after to dozens of employees who it decided were fired in error or too essential to the billionaire businessman's changes.

Another of Musk's early goals — adding verification checkmarks for members of a \$79 monthly subscription service — will be delayed until Wednesday to avoid potential chaos during U.S. elections.

The whiplash events, as described by people familiar with the situation or in an internal memo posted on Slack, follow Musk's acknowledgment in a tweet that the company he and partners bought for \$44 billion

is losing \$4 million a day.

Twitter cut its workforce to trim costs after Musk acquired the company in late October. Twitter did not reply to a request for comment. About the layoffs, Musk tweeted Friday, "Unfortunately there is no choice when the company is losing over \$4M/day."

The company fired more than 90% of its staff in India, depleting engineering and product staff, people familiar with

the matter said. The cuts left the company with about a dozen staff members in that growth market, they said.

Twitter has close to 3,700 employees remaining, according to people familiar with the matter. Musk is pushing those who remain to move quickly to deliver new features, such as fewer ads and the ability to post longer videos and get priority ranking in replies, mentions and searches.