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## Article

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# Immersion, Engagement and Curiosity at Conner Prairie

A family's summer vacation often includes visits to amusement parks and other popular attractions. In Fishers, Indiana, north of Indianapolis, is one of the largest attractions in the region and one of the most visited outdoor museums in the United States – [Conner Prairie](#).

Conner Prairie's mission is to inspire curiosity and foster learning by providing engaging, individualized and unique experiences for visitors of all ages. It combines history with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and encourages visitors to explore through hands-on, immersive and interactive experiences.

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION TO BECOME TOMORROW'S LEADERS

[Passport to Hi-Tech](#) is Conner Prairie's annual event where girls, ages 7 to 12, experience hands-on experiments and interactive exhibits and explore biology, chemistry, engineering, manufacturing, computer science and other disciplines. Participants have opportunities to engage with female experts and professionals working in STEM-related fields. Role models describing the lives of successful women in STEM spark interest in STEM classes and participation in extracurricular activities. The event's activities are staffed by representatives from colleges and universities and high-

tech companies from healthcare, engineering, software development, agriculture industries, just to name a few.

## BECKMAN COULTER HELPS TRANSFORM CURIOSITY INTO REALITY

A team of seven associates from Beckman Coulter, Indianapolis, participated in this year's Passport to Hi-Tech. The day's activities included:

- **Hands-on activity creating patterns with different color dye using Pipettes and 96-well plates**

Participants learned how to use Micropipettes and about units of measure, accuracy and lab experiments. They were able to keep their Beckman Coulter branded plates!

- **Demonstration of the Biomek B4000 Automated Liquid Handler**

The instrument made a rainbow pattern with different types of dyes into 96-well plates. Beckman Coulter experts discussed software programming and how automation makes repetitive work more efficient and accurate.

- We recognize our associates who contributed to this extraordinary event!
  - Rosario Doriott
  - Tina Kaiser (lead)
  - Jason Lowery
  - Ohimai Unoje
  - Shenna Ursery
  - Kristi Vigliaturo
  - Jessica Zeckel





The **Beckman Coulter Foundation** supported Passport to Hi-Tech with a \$2,500 grant which was used to help subsidize admission to Conner Prairie and the special event.

**Gail Brown**, Conner Prairie Program Developer, said, “We really appreciate

you and the Beckman Coulter Foundation participating and sponsoring Passport to Hi Tech. We cannot do these great events without community partners such as yourselves. The number of guests for the day was 837 (evenly split between children and adults). There were also 41 exhibitors with 231 volunteers and staff that were in attendance as well. Overall, with the weather in consideration, it was a very good day.”

**Tina Kaiser**, Beckman Coulter team lead, expressed: “In years past, I have been a part of this event and doing science outreach with a former employer and was so excited to learn that Beckman Coulter also had a similar program and provided time to do outreach. Empowering our youth with new and fun science concepts and activities beyond what they get in the classroom has been a passion of mine and truly appreciate the support of the Beckman Foundation to help with this STEM initiative.”

Thank you to the Beckman Coulter Foundation and our Indianapolis associates for proudly representing our company in this special event.

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