

GE employee expertise adds value to grants

Developing Futures in Education

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In addition to the \$20 million grant GE Foundation gave to Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), another aim of the GE Foundation Developing Futures™ in Education program is to use GE employee expertise to improve functional efficiency and effectiveness in grant-holding districts. Frank Woolard, a GE veteran with 42 years at GE Aviation, was tapped to be GE facilities consultant for CPS, in charge of either refurbishing or rebuilding 51 schools.

Woolard's counsel worked to save the school district more than \$12.5 million. When he started, 19 architects were in charge of 19 different school projects. Under Woolard's guidance seven firms were selected to maximize impact on cost and standardization resulting in about \$150,000 of savings at each school. Woolard's other measures included a bulk-purchasing program for equipment, which saved the school district \$7 million, and bringing in volunteers from GE Aviation with Six Sigma black belts to coach school personnel on solving engineering problems. He also implemented a GE process that allowed contractors, school administrators and facilities managers to collaborate more closely and present decisions to the board of education.