



Precollege Learning

Students at St. Martini Lutheran School and Trowbridge Street School explore and enjoy STEM learning projects in the 2012 pre-college specialty program.



Celebrating Success

7th and 8th grade youth completed the Innovative Grant program *Building a STEM Backbone* and demonstrated their projects during a day of celebration at UW-Waukesha in May 2011.

Help Shape the Next Great Success Stories

Support 4-H STEM and the pre-college program for 7th & 8th grade students on the South Side

Among the more than 1,000 young people served by Milwaukee County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development are special groups of kids in the STEM Certificate program.

They study science, technology, engineering and math as well as a range of general 21st Century skills. The pre-college segment is for 7th and 8th grade students – most of them Latino – on Milwaukee’s South Side.

These young people are dedicated to the task, working hard to prepare for college, join the future workforce, and meet the needs of employers and the community equipped with modern skills.

2012 is the second year of the program and response has been remarkable. More than 80 students are taking part and looking forward to a wealth of positive outcomes.

Your help is needed to give the students the support they deserve. There is a critical need for funds, advisory and instructional involvement, and in-kind contributions.

Please see the other side for more on the pre-college program and how you can help shape the next great success stories.

Qualities & Benefits

Readiness for School & Work
 Direct Parental Involvement
 Enhanced Quality of Life
 Academic Standards
 & Life Skills Based
 University Research Supported
 Teaching Teachers with
 "Curriculum in the Box"
 UW Two-Year Campus Connections

Neighborhood Based

Precollege STEM is underway in zip codes 53204, 53207 and 53215. Participating schools are wonderfully diverse:

Trowbridge Street School
 Fernwood Montessori
 St. Martini Lutheran School
 St. Rafael the Archangel

Several students from the first year of the precollege program have already been accepted at top high schools with STEM accomplishments highlighting their portfolios.

Involved Partners

Milwaukee County UW-Extension
 UW-Waukesha
 Office of Continuing Education
 UW-Richland Center
 St. Joseph's
 Child Development Center
 Staff & Volunteer Teachers,
 Professionals & Academics
 Many other supporters in the
 private and public sectors

A Gateway to Bright Futures

The 4-H STEM program starts early, with third through sixth graders participating in studies and activities at three levels: Explorer, Researcher, and Professional. After each level they receive an achievement certificate.

Graduation into pre-college STEM follows, allowing the students to focus on advanced STEM studies, life skills, and higher education. In this phase, 7th and 8th graders gain a better understanding of why it is important for them to seek higher education and what is needed for admission and continued success.

The 7th graders learn about careers, economics, the relationship between the future cost of living and their level of higher education, and how to prepare for a job when they enter high school. At the end of this first year they attend an intense day of STEM learning at UW-Waukesha and receive a Continuing Education Credit.

When they enter 8th grade they focus on specific STEM areas along with pre-college activities that inform them about the cost of college, work readiness, and selecting a college that meets their needs. They then attend an advanced day of learning at UW-Waukesha Day and receive 2 CEUs.

Just before the students enter 9th grade they participate in a week of study at UW-Richland Center and receive a university credit. A unique example of the role of family is that, while the youth are learning, parents attend workshops to gain knowledge on how to fund their child's higher educational needs.

Participation in pre-college STEM has more than doubled in just one year. Support is needed to keep up with the demand and make sure this gateway to bright futures stays open.



How You Can Support Pre-college STEM

- *Make a financial contribution (tax deductible) to ensure adequate resources for a full program this year*
- *Serve on the pre-college program Advisory Committee*
- *Share your expertise and skills with the students as a volunteer teacher or project leader*
- *Donate materials the students and schools can use*

For more information please contact

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