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 (formerly Salem CyberSpace)
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SUMMER IN SALEM – 2014

Summer of 2014 was the busiest summer yet for LEAP for Education. With your generous donations LEAP was able to work with many community partners to serve over 120 students this season through four programs specifically designed to stimulate learning and encourage community involvement.

X-Team – 18 high school students engaged in summer service learning projects to make our city conducive to healthier living. Teams worked on improving park infrastructure, anti-smoking campaigns and substance abuse. Students also received about 15 hours of career and college workshops. This was a collaboration of LEAP, Salem Public Schools, North Shore Medical Center, Mass in Motion (Salem) and the North Shore WIB.

Zero Robotics – 10 middle school students from Salem Public Schools and Salem Academy Charter School wrote a computer program to control SPHERES robots used by NASA astronauts aboard the International Space Station. The robots were programmed to play a game according to rules set by MIT scientists. Competing against 12 youth groups in Massachusetts, Salem placed third. Students got to visit MIT twice and talk to the ISS astronauts through a satellite connection.

Salem At SEA – 40 English Language Learners from both Salem High School and Salem Academy Charter School improved their English Literacy skills through a project looking at Salem and its connection to Global Markets. The summer culminated in a photographic exhibit. This program took place at Salem State University with Salem Public Schools, LEAP, National Essex Heritage Commission and the North Shore WIB as partners. LEAP for Education provided three college and career workshops.

Expanding Horizons – 50 middle school students worked on various environmental projects and got to enjoy three field trips to Salem, Newburyport/Plum Island and Gloucester. Students also completed their reading assignments on their Kindles and iPads provided by the program. This was a collaboration between Salem Public Schools and LEAP. ■

OUR STAFF

Linda Saris, Director
Mira Riffin, Budget & Data Manager
Greg Bedard, IT Administrator
Andria Castillo, Family Engagement Coordinator / Graphic Designer
Mary Kate Adams, ESL Teacher (Summer)

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

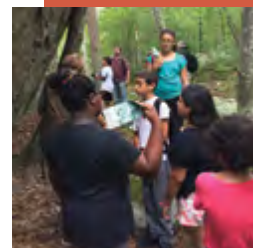
Jesenia Tejada-Pérez, Coordinator
Andrea McCue, Site Coordinator (Salem)
Elizabeth “Betty” Haggerty, Site Coordinator (Peabody)
Norma Ramirez, Site Coordinator (Gloucester)

New Staff

Sarah Kaplan, Associate Coordinator (Salem)
Katherine “Katie” Wilkins, Associate Coordinator (Peabody)
Scott Memhard, Associate Coordinator (Gloucester)
Fiona Merizier, Fall Intern, SSU
Carolisa Selmo, Fall Intern, SSU

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

Lyle Harrod, Coordinator
Scott Sumrall, Tutor
New Staff
Priscilla Diaz, STEM Coordinator



LEAP FOR EDUCATION TAKES NEXT LEAP

On July 9, 2014, LEAP for Education was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and on October 20, 2014, the Form 1023 (the application for tax-exempt status) was filed with the IRS for the newly formed LEAP for Education, Inc. Based on current estimates we should hear about our application sometime around June 2015. Once the application is approved, we will begin the process to separate from our founder and parent, North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc. of Peabody. The name of our organization (while we remain a part of NSCAP) also officially changed to LEAP for Education last August and we will retain that name when we separate from NSCAP. In the meantime, LEAP will use NSCAP as its fiscal agent. Accordingly all year-end donations should be made out to NSCAP f/b/o LEAP for Education.

The Board of Directors for LEAP includes: William Howard, Chairman of the Board, Beverly Bank; Terence McGinnis, General Counsel, Eastern Bank; Elaine Webb, Materials Manager, Applied Materials; Ellen Galligan, Catholic Charities North and Linda Saris, Executive Director, LEAP for Education, Inc. ■

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM (CSP)

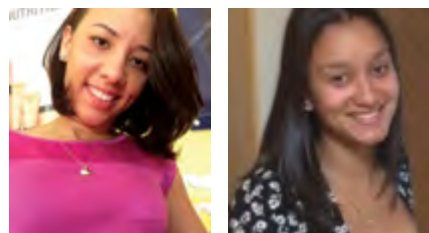
Your generous gifts support our college advisors (3 full time and 3 part time) who work with over 140 students in Salem, Peabody and Gloucester. By Winter Break, our counselors will have assisted over 40 hardworking high school seniors in the completion of over 225 college applications. By February vacation, these seniors will have completed their financial aid applications and will be applying for scholarships and getting ready for college.

Once a week in Salem, Peabody and Gloucester, our counselors work with 44 high school juniors immersing them in self-exploration, career and college exploration and preparations and plans for college. Our counselors also work all year advising over 60 college students.

Your gifts make a major impact. To date 100% of our students complete high school, and 87% of our college students are still in college or have graduated.

All of our prospective, current and graduated students thank you for your support. ■

MEET YOUR 2015 COLLEGE GRADS



Johanna Rodríguez (left) will receive a Bachelor's in Human Services from Northeastern University. After graduation, she will work in Social Services or go to grad school.
Yibelis Peña (right) will receive a Bachelor's in Psychology from Northeastern University. After graduation, she will pursue her Masters in Psychology.

LEAP'S PRESENCE IN GLOUCESTER EXPANDS

In August, 2014, the Gloucester Public School District signed a Memorandum of Understanding with LEAP to have LEAP staff assist them in preparing and analyzing the data required under their 21st Century Community Learning Center grants with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. These programs run at Gloucester High School and at the O'Maley Middle School. "This is the second year that LEAP has been in Gloucester with its College Success Program and this is another opportunity for us to work at the middle and high school level with the Gloucester schools", said Linda Saris, Director of LEAP. "With our two years of experience working with Salem on their grants, we are excited to offer our services to help Gloucester meet their grant requirements."

"We really love working with Linda Saris and Mira Riggin from LEAP. They have made our lives so much easier. With their work on collecting and analyzing data, we now have more time to actually use that data and dedicate our time to developing quality programs", said Samantha Whitney, Site Coordinator for Gloucester U, the Gloucester High School program. ■

COLLEGE SUCCESS STAR - SCARLETT GONZÁLEZ

Scarlett is a bright young woman who is not afraid of taking risks to achieve success.

Her family immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic when she was 5 years old. Scarlett first started coming to LEAP as a freshman in high school and was introduced to the College Success Program during her sophomore year.

At the age of 16, Scarlett was one of two students selected by the Salem Rotary Club to study in Romania during her junior year of high school. She is now a senior at Endicott College and will graduate with a Bachelor's in International Studies in May of 2015. As an International Studies major, Scarlett took advantage of Endicott's junior year abroad program and studied one semester in the Dominican Republic and another in Brazil.

Scarlett is passionate about new cultures and languages. She is fluent in Spanish, English, Romanian and Portuguese.

After graduation, Scarlett will be looking for career opportunities in which to use her knowledge of languages and her interest in international affairs. ■



LEAP STUDENTS GIVE BACK

Alumni Volunteers - Miguel Cruz (Montserrat College of Art, Class of 2013) is volunteering his time to teach art, and JC Cruz (North Shore Community College) is helping in student recruitment and teaching a hip hop class.

"Our donors and LEAP staff supported me from middle school through college. I am grateful to have had that opportunity and excited that I can find a way to give back", said Miguel Cruz.

LEAP Students Win 84 Grant - Five LEAP students (all of whom worked as part of the X-TEAM) submitted a grant with The 84, a statewide youth anti-smoking group (www.the84.org) to continue working on their anti-smoking project. After an initial rejection, the team regrouped and rewrote the grant to focus on a campaign against e-cigarettes. This time, the project was accepted and got funded for \$1,000.

This is another example of how the gifts and grants we get every year from our supporters help to develop our students not only academically but as engaged citizens of our community. ■

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS & MATH (STEAM) @ THE ALC

With donations from the Norman Read Trust, Eastern Bank, Cell Signaling and Verizon Foundation as well as many individual gifts, we have been able to really step up our STEAM offerings. Now add a smart and energetic Mass Promise Fellow, Priscilla Díaz, to the mix and you see the beginnings of a great space for "design thinking".

Linda Saris, the Director of LEAP, has been working with ALC Coordinator Lyle Harrod and Ms. Díaz to explore ways to offer projects that develop critical thinking, problem solving and creativity for our students. These projects are hands-on and allow students to experience the world in a very physical way and to solve problems their own ways. "I am very interested in presenting projects that blend art and engineering," said Linda Saris, Director. "I want students solving problems with innovation and style."

LEAP Youth At The Peabody Essex Museum: Through our partnership with the PEM, LEAP for Education youth has access to the Art Studio, the Maker Space and new exhibits. Our students attend the openings of new art exhibits throughout the year and meet the artists as partners of the Artlink Previews. In the Art Studio, the groups are given time to do individual projects and participate in creative group projects, like designing TOMS shoes and working with sculptor Patrick Dougherty for his stick sculpture. ■



MEET AMERICORPS MASS PROMISE FELLOW



Priscilla Díaz is our new STEM Coordinator at LEAP. She was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the USA when she was 15. Priscilla graduated from Regis College in May 2014 with a BA in Biochemistry. After graduation, she got involved in service and found her way to LEAP.

As an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow she is developing curriculum and programming for the youth. Each day she conducts a fun and educational activity in a field of science, technology, engineering or math. In addition to these duties she helps recruit and train volunteer tutors and mentors. Priscilla has used her bilingual abilities to create a bridge between English and Spanish speaking students, which has been invaluable in the development of our program as a community. ■

UPCOMING STEAM PROJECTS

With the Peabody Essex Museum: building a Rube Goldberg machine, scale models and mobile sculpture.

3D Printer: with the recent acquisition of the MakerBot Replicator 2 3D printer, students are learning how to create their own designs in Tinkercad. Each student will decide on an object to design and print which might include earrings, model car, Christmas tree ornament, etc.

Urban Farming: in the fall, the youth started working on a garden preparing the soil and planting a variety of crops: lettuce, mint, basil, peppers, and flowers. Students aimed for function (edibles) and aesthetic. The project will start again in the spring.

Arduinos & e-Wearables: thanks to a donation by the Gelfand Foundation students are learning how to code and design circuits using Arduino Boards. Each student will work on their own project and discover different applications for the Arduinos using sensory alarms, power switch for fans or LED's, machine motors and many more. Students will also learn how to create circuits using conductive dough and conductive thread. They will design and create different products, like birthday cards, t-shirts, accessories and decorations that light up and make sounds.

Future City: for the 4th year, LEAP middle school students will be competing in the Future City Competition. This year the theme is urban gardens to feed and fuel cities of the future. Students will design and build a future city and compete at the end of January at Northeastern University. This is a collaboration with the North Shore Workforce Investment Board. ■

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LEAP for Education is supported in part through the Massachusetts College Access Challenge Grant, the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, the city of Gloucester Grant Division, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Thank you!

*In the provision of our services, we do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, marital status, age, familial status, sexual orientation, ancestry, public assistance, veteran history/military status, genetic information or disability.

HOW DOES THE CITY OF SALEM HELP THEE? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS...

Forgive me for changing the beautiful lines of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous poem *How Do I Love Thee?* but what better way can we begin to express the help and support we have received from the City of Salem.

Mayor Kim Driscoll and Mayor Stan Usovicz before her, have been supporters of Salem CyberSpace, now LEAP for Education, since we opened in 2002. Both Mayors understand the importance of learning and with that the importance that after school programs play in providing youth with rich learning experiences to supplement the work being done in the classroom. Mayor Driscoll's support for education is legendary.

There is another lesser known organization within the City of Salem that has been a supporter of LEAP year after year. This is the Board of Trust Fund Commissioners which is chaired by the Mayor with Board members including: Judge Thaddeus Buczko, William P. Goreham, Sumner Jones, Raymond Vaillancourt and Kay Fouhey as Clerk. This Board not only provides support for countless non-profits but also with the help of associated agencies helps many individuals in need. It also provides approximately 40 modest scholarships each year and every Salem resident enrolled full time in college who completes the

scholarship form is awarded a scholarship to help pay for books or tuition.

The Funds are for very specific uses and support free concerts, scholarships, Norman Read Lectures, Annual Read Picnic, Cemetery beautification, Library support, as well as health issues and fuel assistance for widows and single working women. Funds can only be used by Salem residents and are distributed through local agencies who screen all applicants for need while providing additional assistance for the applicants.

Approximately 17 non-profits (about \$120,000), including LEAP for Education, will benefit from these various funds in 2015.

Thank you, Salem!
Linda Saris, Director

SAVE THE DATE

Great Expectations Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 15th, 2015
Danversport Yacht Club, 6:00 PM