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SUMMER PROGRAMS – 2013

X-TEAM

Twenty high school students participated in a 5-week science service learning program at Salem High School. This program, run in partnership with Salem High School, Salem CyberSpace, North Shore Medical Center and Mass in Motion, was funded under the Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success, a program of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.



X-Team at Salem Farmers Market

Students could earn ½ credit towards their high school degree for successful completion of the program. Students who completed their projects, met attendance requirements and were academically engaged could earn up to a \$400 stipend paid through the FirstJobs program of the North Shore Workforce Investment Board.

The theme for this summer was how exercise and nutrition affect our bodies. Biology teacher Peter DiMauro and ESL teacher Mary Kate Adams taught the academic components which were based on parts of the physiology and anatomy curriculum. Craig Vadala, a high school health and fitness teacher, put the learning into practice.

ZERO ROBOTICS

During the summer of 2013, Salem CyberSpace teamed up with Salem Academy Charter School for its third year of Zero Robotics. Lisa Crowley, a math teacher at the Academy, spent 5 weeks with a group of 10 students writing computer programs that would provide instructions to SPHERES robots that are actually used on the International Space Station (ISS). Salem CyberSpace/Salem Academy was one of six programs chosen to participate in this program in Massachusetts. In addition to computer programming, students learned about NASA, aeronautics, engineering and math through many activities designed by CyberSpace staff, MIT and NASA. Among approximately 30 competing programs across the US, SC/SA students were chosen as one of the 9 programs to upload its final code to the ISS.



Zero Robotics Team at MIT

OUR STAFF:

- Linda Saris**, Director
- Debi Chute**, Academic Learning Center Coordinator
- Jaster Rincón**, Evening Manager and Tutor, ALC
- Scott Sumrall**, Tutor Staff, ALC
- Jesenia Tejada-Pérez**, College Success Coordinator
- Norma Ramírez**, Academic Coordinator, College Success
- Andria Castillo**, Family Engagement Coordinator
- Mira Riggan**, Grant Writer and Budget Analyst
- Greg Bedard**, IT Coordinator

NEW STAFF:

- Andrea McCue**, Associate College Success Coordinator, Salem (left)
- Elizabeth “Betty” Haggerty**, Associate College Success Coordinator, Peabody and Gloucester (right)



EASTERN BANK – by Linda Saris

One of the early connections I made when Salem CyberSpace first opened was with Laura Kurzrok, Executive Director of the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. Little did I know at the time that Eastern Bank and Laura herself would open so many doors for our youth.

From 2005 to 2010, Eastern Bank supported our summer programs with a community grant. These programs included several summers of our CyberCorps program which taught 10 – 15 high school youth each year how to design and develop websites for local organizations. They also funded science programs for our middle school youth, including two summers of our

Zero Robotics program with MIT and NASA. And, most recently we have received two major grants that support our College Success program which provides career and college coaching and advising to low income students from high school through college. Over the last 8 years, Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation (EBCF) has supported programs that benefited over 200 youth.

EBCF donates 10% of its net profits each year to charity. This year the bank will contribute \$5.0 million comprised of 1800 grants to about 1,000 individual organizations in Eastern Massachusetts. I was fortunate

this year to be part of Eastern's Community Quarterback event with Doug Flutie and was humbled to be part of a community of so many worthy non-profit organizations.

In addition to the Community Quarterback event that honors all the organizations that receive Partnership grants, EBCF also sponsors the annual Social Justice Award (this year the award went to outgoing Mayor Menino) and 4 regional Community Advocacy Awards (in our region, this year's award went to Mary Sarris, Executive Director of the North Shore WIB).



Laura Kurzrok

For those of you who know Laura, she is the ultimate "Connector".

Through Laura, I was connected to Ellen Galligan at Catholic Charities who volunteers at Salem CyberSpace and who also has become an advisor and personal friend. There were others but my favorite was her own son who volunteered as a tutor at CyberSpace for 3 years while in high school.

Eastern Bank makes a connection to its organizations that goes beyond just giving out money. They don't just fund these organizations, they cherish them and celebrate them.

SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES @ THE ALC – STEM & THE ARTS

The Chemistry and Biology Society from Salem State will once again be working with our students on a bi-weekly basis conducting fun experiments with all of our students.

CyberAces - Students have been participating in the CyberAces competition (www.cyberaces.org) which provides them the opportunity to learn about computer networking, cryptology and cybersecurity. Our students are getting an appreciation of the challenges related to accessing and protecting information security systems while at the same time learning new skills and gaining an understanding of new career possibilities.

Arduino Car Project – Thanks to a donation from the Gelfand Family Foundation, students have been working together to create an autonomous robot car that can maneuver around

obstacles. They are learning programming, principles of mechanical and electrical engineering and team work.

Future City Competition – Students from Salem CyberSpace, Collins Middle School and Bowditch Middle School have teamed up to compete in this year's Future City competition. This year's theme is Tomorrow's Transit. With the help of CyberSpace staff and Mr. Kriss Aho from Collins, students will design a city using SimCity software, write an essay on transportation ideas, build a city using recycled material and present their city to Boston Engineers at Northeastern University in January.

Field Trip – New England ThinkFest – Students participated once again in the ThinkFest day at Merrimack College in November. This is a hands-on festival celebrating Science,

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Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Students created designs to win prizes through hands-on challenges, and met many engineers and scientists from all over New England.



LEGO MINDSTORM – Students will be starting Mindstorm in the next month. LEGO MINDSTORMS NXT helps students understand the workflow for designing an embedded system without using manual programming. Students can use Simulink to create algorithms for control systems and robotics applications. Students will be challenged to come up with their own designs

Peabody Essex Museum – Once again, our group will be visiting the exhibits once a month and will be able to create their own artwork at the Museum one day a month as well. We are

excited to be able to use the newly opened Art Studio this year. Students are also encouraged to participate in the new ArtLink Teen Leadership Program this year at PEM for teens 14-18. We will be working with PEM the first and second Wednesdays, beginning in December.

TD Bank – Financial Literacy Series - Beginning in January, 2014, Kara Halas, Asst. VP at TD Bank is once again teaching our students all about banking and personal financial literacy in a 5-week workshop. Students will learn about credit/debit, personal checking and savings accounts, identity theft, needs and wants and much more. She makes this a fun learning experience and we are very excited to have her back. Last year, TD Bank had our group as their guests at a Celtics game – who knows, maybe it will happen again!

Meditation & Yoga – with the help of our volunteers, students will be treated to a half hour of meditation and yoga once a week.

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

College Success has 4 full time staff this year and over 100 students! Staff are working with 40 high school students from Salem, 16 from Peabody and 11 from Gloucester. In addition, we provide advisory services to over 40 college students.

Life Skills and Social-Emotional Workshops - This year we have added life skills workshops for our Salem High School students. TD Bank Assistant Vice President, Kara Halas, will once again offer a course in Financial Literacy to our juniors. Through our partnership with Children’s Friend and Family Services we are also providing many of our students (high school and college) with free individual therapeutic counseling and several group sessions covering subjects such as stress management, depression, assertiveness and healthy relationships.

Parent Programs - Our Family Academies are underway for the third year. These workshops are designed to help parents who are not in our College Success Program better navigate the whole college process.

Upcoming Family Academies:

Complete your College Application - Gloucester High School
December 10, 2013, 3 pm - 6 pm (32 Leslie O Johnson Rd.)

Basics of Federal Financial Aid - House of the Seven Gables
January 15, 2014, 6 pm – 8 pm (115 Derby St. Salem)

Complete your FAFSA Application* - Endicott College
January 18, 2014, 9 am – 3 pm (33 Commercial St. Gloucester)

Complete your FAFSA Application* - Salem CyberSpace
January 25, 2014, 9 am – 3 pm (209R Essex St. Salem)

Volunteers are needed for both FAFSA workshops – we will train! If interested email Jesenia Tejada-Pérez at jtejada@salemcyberspace.org, or call 978-740-6667 x104

OUR NEW STAFF

Betty Haggerty, Associate Coordinator for Gloucester and Peabody - Betty spends time out of the office to be in Gloucester and Peabody, marketing our program and events. She also meets with college students, but is the one in charge of running both of the high school programs in these two new cities. Betty has a Masters in Secondary Education.

Andrea McCue, Associate Coordinator for Salem - Andrea meets with both high school and college students. Andrea started off as a volunteer several years ago for the ALC at Salem CyberSpace and then was hired for the position in the College Success Program. She graduated from Salem State University with a Bachelors in Social Work.



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THANK YOU CITY OF SALEM

The youth programs are partially funded by the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**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.*

EXPANDING HORIZONS @ COLLINS MIDDLE SCHOOL

The second year of the Expanding Horizons 21st Century program is well underway. During the first session 60 students received academic support in math and ELA and enjoyed fun activities such as digital storytelling, computer animation, outdoor orienteering, math art and Team Games. Session 2 will start on January 6th. Any Salem middle school student is eligible to join the program. For more information, call Millie Pena at 978-740-1191.

There are only 70 open slots and current students will be given first preference so sign up now!



WE MOVED!

Last summer, we moved into our new space at **209 Essex St.** in the Derby Square area of downtown Salem. Youth programs are offered in the Basement space which must be entered from the rear of the building. College Success and the Director's office are on the second floor which can be accessed off the Essex Pedestrian Mall opposite CVS Pharmacy.

All are welcome to visit our new space!