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LEAP *for Education*

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BROTHERS FOR SUCCESS EMPOWERING MALES OF COLOR THROUGH EDUCATION

With data showing that poor males of color are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school, the state Department of Higher Education announced its new pilot initiative “100 Males to College.” This initiative will be launched in partnership with three large urban districts of Brockton, Framingham and Springfield.

With your support and with the support of our partners, the Department of Higher Education, Salem State University and Salem High School, LEAP launched its own smaller pilot in October called *Brothers for Success*.

Dr. Steven Oliver, assistant professor in Salem State’s School of Education is leading this group at Marsh Hall on campus. Dr. Oliver graduated from New York University with a PhD in sociology of education. Prior to coming to Salem State, Steven was the assistant vice president for institutional diversity at the University of Kentucky. A sociologist and qualitative researcher, his research explores the ways in which race, class, gender, and LGBT identity impacts educational opportunity and academic achievement in secondary and higher education.

Starting in October 2015, students began to participate in six bi-weekly sessions which will continue through December focused on establishing trust and building cohesion within the

group. Within the broader framework of College Readiness, students will explore issues, challenges and opportunities that are specific to young men of color. Dialogue centered sessions are facilitated by Dr. Oliver and include other Salem State staff and faculty as well as current SSU students who give first-hand accounts of their current experiences. From January through May, Dr. Oliver will continue to meet with the group once a month and LEAP staff will provide 4 workshops on college and career readiness.



“We are very excited to be participating with LEAP for Education, Inc. on this very important initiative. Salem State University is committed to creating an inclusive and affirming community in which all of our students feel welcomed, valued, and appreciated for their unique contributions and talents. We thank LEAP and its funders for proposing and launching this pilot,” said Dr. David Silva, Provost at Salem State University.

GIRLS WHO CODE

Girls Who Code (GWC) is a national nonprofit organization working to close the gender gap in the technology and engineering sectors. GWC serves over 2000 girls in 24 states and in September, 2015, LEAP got approved as a Club.

LEAP is pleased to announce that Amy Helfman a WEB UI (User Interface) Engineer at EBSCO will be LEAP’s GWC instructor and Megan Hurst (formerly of EBSCO) and Lisa Stranding (Computer Science teacher at St. Johns Prep) will be provide support and back up for Amy.

Recruitment for the Club began in November and we hope to have 15 girls signed up by January 11th. We will be holding information sessions throughout the North Shore and any girl in 9th – 12th grade are eligible to apply by emailing Linda Saris, lsaris@leap4ed.org.

With your gifts and the support of the Norman Read Trust, LEAP is able to host this club and provide the facilities, management and food to our future computer scientists.

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VOLUNTEERISM: THE BEST HOURS OF YOUR WEEK

Low income youth are less likely to succeed in school, graduate from college and find employment in jobs that pay a living wage.

What if you could change all that?

Choose to be a volunteer with LEAP for Education and help a student-in-need to expand their educational and career opportunities.

LEAP's goal is to engage students in learning thereby opening up opportunities for secondary education. LEAP accomplishes these goals through a variety of innovative programs which include The College Success Program, a Teen Center, Extended Learning Time, SAT Prep, and The Academic Learning Center. Volunteers are appreciated in all of these programs.

Volunteers choose to tutor individual students, work alongside site coordinators or provide support in the administrative office. The most important qualities in a volunteer are the desire to make a difference and a strong belief in the value of education.

Some might say that the benefits of volunteering are as enormous to you as they are to the students you support. Here's what current volunteers are saying about their work with LEAP:

"I am very pleased with my decision to volunteer in the College Success Program. The students are all engaged in learning and they truly appreciate my commitment. The Site Coordinator, Betty, is amazing. She has such a fabulous connection with the students. For the first time in my life I look forward to Mondays because that's the day I help at LEAP." College Success Program mentor, Peabody.

Consider volunteering with LEAP for Education (contact acastillo@leap4ed.org) because the best hours of your week might just be the ones you give away!

COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Program Updates – The College Success Program has a record 85 high school students and 50 college students this year in our three programs in Salem, Peabody and Gloucester. The juniors have been participating in weekly lessons around self-exploration, understanding college admission factors, resume writing, and more. They will be starting career and college research as well as visiting college campuses next semester. Our high school seniors will submit almost 250 college applications!

Staff and Volunteers – The success of our program is possible due to the amazing intense work of our committed staff which includes five full-time advising staff and our intern from the School of Social Work at Salem State University.

A shout-out to our six fantastic volunteers who assist in our programs providing help in college essay writing, college applications, SAT tutoring, and running the weekly high school group meetings. These volunteers are Jean Cocuzzo, Ron Landman, Cathy Pommer, Jessica Smith, Nancy McKeen and Yvonne van Bodengraven.



SAT tutor Jessica Smith and CSP students

Yleana Leadership Academy – The students who attended this three-week intense, free SAT prep boot camp last summer took their SAT's again in October and scores went up a whopping 185 points on average!

Scholarships – We have one finalist for the QuestBridge Scholarship which offers full tuition, room and board, to one of many top elite colleges and one finalist for a STEM tuition scholarship to Bryn Mawr through the Posse Foundation.

Volunteers Needed – LEAP is currently looking for volunteers to assist our families in filling out their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The annual FAFSA Day event will be on Saturday, January 30th from 10am-1pm at the Salem Academy Charter School in Salem, MA. If you would like to volunteer please register at: www.fafsaday.org.

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

LEAP for Education, Inc. and the Salem Public Schools were awarded a 3.5 year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to run quality after-school programs for 60 Salem middle school students hosted at the Bowditch Middle School.

Called Expanding Horizons, this program offers project-based activities that are engaging, hands-on and multi-disciplinary in their approach. All activities have learning objectives tied to the Common Core curriculum frameworks and are led by community specialists and licensed teachers.

Art of Printing – this innovative program developed by LEAP’s staff integrates art, science and technology in a 12 week exploration of different printing techniques. These include the ancient Japanese marbling art form of Suminagashi, the Pop Art form of silk screening and 3D design and printing using LEAP’s Makerbot which was purchased with a grant from Cell Signaling Technologies. Students learn about surface tension, viscosity and CAD as well as create works of art.



Future City – six bright, creative students form this year’s Future City team who will compete regionally in a competition run by the Boston Society of Engineers. This is a multi-disciplinary project that involves writing a story about your future city, and researching and building a scale model of your city (following a complex rubric), and making an oral presentation. This year’s theme is “Waste Not, Want Not”. The challenge is to design a citywide solid waste management system for a city 100 years in the future. The team’s goal is a city with zero solid waste. The competition day is January 16, 2016.



CSI Forensics – this program will begin in January 2016 and represents another innovative curriculum designed by LEAP staff to teach science and many 21st Century skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking and team work.

JVInvent Team – this is a Lemelson-MIT program that inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention. LEAP staff will be adapting this high school curriculum for middle school students. Students will start this program by inventing a shoe sole. All supplies and lesson plans are provided free by MIT.

GLOUCESTER CORNER

September marked the beginning of the new school year at Gloucester’s two 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) sites at Gloucester High School (Gloucester U) and O’Maley Innovation Middle School (O’Maley Academy). This was the first year this program will be program coordinated by LEAP for Education, Inc. with LEAP staff, Linda Saris and Joann Leavitt as program coordinators.

O’Maley Academy is serving about 150 youth (60 on a daily basis) in 15 highly engaging programs that cover the arts, STEM and physical fitness including theater arts, American Sign Language, Mountain Biking, novel writing, aquaponics, marine biology and coding, among others.

Gloucester U has enrolled 55 students in five programs focused on career and college. These include Culinary, Police Academy, Video Game Design and Environmental Club, as well as 3 programs in the arts, Art, Vocal and Anime. Gloucester U hosted a very successful Family Engagement “Farm to Table” Night which included a wonderful dinner prepared and catered by the culinary team with fresh root vegetables and some greens from the E-Club team, and art show and vocal performance by GU students. E-Club students also demonstrated their recycling and composting bins which will be introduced into the cafeterias this school year along with an educational program.

O’Maley is in the second year of a three year grant and Gloucester U is in its final year, with an opportunity to apply for another three year grant.

“We have really enjoyed working in Gloucester. Everyone from the Mayor, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principals, Guidance, faculty and community members have been supportive of our efforts to deliver quality after-school programming to the youth of Gloucester. We have an amazing 21CCLC staff who manage this program in addition to their school day responsibilities,” said Linda Saris, Executive Director and Program Coordinator.



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Danversport Yacht Club, 6PM
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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, 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.

PARTNER PROFILE – SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY



Salem State University's 13th president. Dr. Patricia "Pat" Maguire Meservey

Salem State University has been a stalwart supporter of LEAP for Education, Inc. from the day Dr. Patricia Maguire Meservey stepped foot on Salem State's campus in 2007 as the university's 13th president. Solid partnerships are two-way streets, each partner benefiting the other so that the whole is greater than the sum of its

parts. Here is a snippet of the impact SSU and LEAP have had on youth and education on the North Shore.

Board Member – Dr. David Silva, SSU's newly appointed Provost joined LEAP's Board of Directors in July of 2015.

Brothers for Success – see related article in this newsletter.

Salem at SEA – a 3 year summer program providing service learning opportunities for Salem's ELL teams.

Center for Community Schools – a newly organized interdisciplinary center of research, development, consultation, technical assistance, and professional education. Linda Saris, LEAP's Executive Director was on the founding team and currently on the Executive Board.

Northeast Regional Readiness Center – regional collaboration between higher education, local school districts and community based organizations to bring professional development for faculty, youth workers and administrators around many new state initiatives including the new Common Core curricula, and grants-based programs for youth programs. Linda Saris, was a member of the Executive Board, representing the region's community organizations.

College Access Grant – LEAP was a subcontractor to SSU in the first two years of this grant before it began to receive its own funds from the Department of Higher Education. This program provided hundreds of students on the North Shore with services to make college more accessible and affordable.

Volunteers, Field Placement Interns, Staff – Two of LEAP's full-time staff members started as volunteers from Salem State. We host an average of 10 volunteers or interns each year from SSU's Departments of Education, Social Work, Foreign Languages, Philosophy or Sociology.

We could go on but I suspect you got the message. Salem State and LEAP make a formidable partnership making a real difference in our community!