



Fall-Winter 2011

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Salem CyberSpace

A program of North Shore Community Action Programs, Inc.

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Youth Take Second Place in 2011 Zero Robotics at MIT

Salem CyberSpace was chosen by the Massachusetts After School Partnership and MIT to be one of only five youth programs to participate in the Summer of Innovation at MIT last summer. 15 middle school students learned how to program in "C", learned about physics, aerospace, math and engineering as they



Second Place Finish

programmed NASA's SPHERES robots, which are used on the International Space



Competition at MIT, August 2011

Station. Students had to program the robots to compete in a game which was played out on the Space Station. The robot, responding to the commands written by the students, had to execute several tasks faster than their opponents. In an incredibly tight race, Salem CyberSpace was edged out in the last round by the team from Winthrop Middle School. "Last year we didn't even place in the top 3. This

year we were more organized and creative. We also had great help from the Salem CyberSpace and MIT mentors. It was pretty exciting. It is also cool to tell people that we can write computer

code," said Anna, an 8th grader at the Nathaniel Bowditch School.



The Robotics Team at MIT

During the summer there were several activities related to physics, chemistry and engineering.

Thanks to the Norman Read Trust Foundation, Eastern Bank and North Shore Technology Council for their financial support of Zero Robotics

Students Reach The Summit With 2 Prestigious College Scholarships

Jesus Morales won a four year Questbridge Scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania.



This scholarship includes tuition, room and board. "I had to complete 8 early decision applications in less than 3 weeks. I don't know how I could have done this without

the help of Salem CyberSpace.", said Jesus.

Maria Gomez won a four year tuition scholarship to Bryn Mawr College (in Pennsylvania) from the Posse Foundation.

" All the staff at Salem CyberSpace helped me with



the Posse scholarship driving me to 3 interviews in Boston, keeping me on task, helping me with writing and preparing for the SAT's", said Maria.

"We are so proud of these students and the other 2 students who were finalists. They have worked so hard their entire school years to achieve this success", said Jesenia Tejada, College Success Coordinator.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

- 3-6 hours per week
 - Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, and/or Sat
 - Work with ESL students
 - Tutor in math, science, technology
 - SAT prep
 - Enrichment projects
- Must be able to do high school level work

The funding for the [College Success Parent Academies](#), [Writing Workshops](#), and [Summer College and Career](#) programs came from the Massachusetts Challenge Access Grant through the Commonwealth of MA Department of Higher Education.

**LOOK OUT FOR
OUR NEW COLLEGE
SUCCESS WEBSITE
WHICH WILL GO
LIVE IN JANUARY
2012**

ELL Students Climb New Heights (Literally!)

On October 15th, eleven brave ELL St. program high school students trekked up Mount Monadnock during an exciting, but arduous day hike. The students were guided by Miss Adams, the program instructor, Miss Augulewicz, a high school teacher, and 2 volunteers- Asha Chane and Vladimir Aguas-vivas. Prior to the hike, students learned about hiking etiquette and the concept of Leave No Trace through

reading and role-playing. After meeting at 8:30 AM to pack hiking bags, boots, and



proper outdoor attire all on loan from the Appalachian

Mountain Club Youth Opportunities Program, the guides escorted students to Jaffrey, NH where their excursion would finally begin. The hike lasted several hours, but the students reached the summit successfully! A feeling of immense teamwork prevailed as students helped each other climb a difficult trail filled with steep inclines, rocks and river crossings. Throughout the hike, the team could be heard singing "We can do it!" And in the end, we did it indeed!

College Success Summer Report

Launches Parent Academies and Writing Workshop

The College Success Program had a busy summer launching a new educational program for parents of the community to learn more about how to support their children through the college process. Salem CyberSpace launched three parent academies covering topics on Preparing for College, College Success, Financing College and How to Find and Apply for Scholarships. Offering sessions in both Spanish and English with complete curriculum and a "hands on" computer session to navigate the FAFSA, the Academies served more than 78 parents in the Salem community. The Financing component was a key objective to the Academies as it outlined the FAFSA process, shared important information about the Financial Aid process and walked parents through what is otherwise a very daunting, yet important step in achieving a college education. "I found

the Academy very helpful to me. Everything was explained in an easy to understand format", said Betty Barzola, mother of a junior at Salem High School. College Success also led 11 students through a very intensive writing workshop for six weeks in July and August. The objective of the workshop was to lead college bound candidates



through core strategies and practice for successful college writing. Though the workshop focused on several areas of writing, including motivation, confidence and self esteem in the process, the workshop was designed to create a polished

college essay and resume. "The writing workshop really helped me. I started senior year with all my essays completed and went up 50 points on my SAT writing score, said Maria Gomez, Salem High School senior. At the end of the workshop 100% of the participants showed between 55-75% improvement in their writing. Students in the writing workshop also had the opportunity to visit several college campuses and spend time job shadowing or learning about a career choice. Students spent time in marine biology, green chemistry, fashion merchandising, architecture, graphic design, healthcare and criminal justice.

ELL Street Fall Activities

Our ELL St. Program provides free, after-school English Literacy programs to middle and high school ESL youth. After a successful pilot last year, we have developed a new teaching model which ties English learning with community service and outdoor activities. By learning English in context of real world activities, students understand and retain the in-



formation better. They also learn about their new communities and make important connections. This year we were invited back by the Salem Beautification Committee to help with the fall plantings. Our middle school students planted the Senior Center on Broad St. and our high school students planted the whiskey barrels along Artists Row. Beautification Committee members have asked our students to help clean up an empty lot as a new project later this month.

This month, students will begin to work with the House of Seven Gables curator, Alan Collachicco and Ana Nuncio. Students will be taught to give tours through the Gables in both English and Spanish. Watch for your invitation to one of the tours.

ELL St. is funded through generous donations from the Norman Read Trust Fund, Amelia Peabody Foundation, the Lenny Zakim Fund, BJ's Charitable Foundation, Dominion Energy and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Stay Tuned

Theater Program On Youth Health Issues Starts January, 2012

Salem CyberSpace and Salem Theater were awarded a grant from the Healthy People 2020 Community Innovations Project, a program of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Funds will be used to work with 12 local middle and high school students to create three short plays that educate on healthy choices. The plays will focus on nutrition, substance abuse and youth violence. In the spring, students will then share these plays through public performances in various locations including the STC Theater.

The Academic Learning Center Update

As winter approaches and report cards for the first quarter of the school year are issued, those of us who work in the after-school Academic Center are particularly pleased to welcome a new math tutor, Laura Kelleher and several new volunteers: Alison Bridgewater, Ryan Lebron, Andrea McCue, Christine Vo, Archie Campbell, and Catherine Pommer. These dedicated volunteers who come from various disciplines and backgrounds, bring much-appreciated areas of expertise to our program. Volunteers are essential to the effectiveness of a program that has

seen a thirty percent increase in students, averaging twenty-seven kids in attendance per day this year. The volunteers make it possible for the students to receive sustained one-on-one assistance to which they would have little access if our core tutors were spread too thin.

We have observed that the student body at CyberSpace is getting younger even as it gets



older: while the percentage of high school students in the program has increased from 60 - 70 %, we have also seen many more middle school kids than last year. The balance also continues to weigh in favor of ELL students, whose numbers have increased by 35% from last year. As our students move one quarter closer to high school graduation, we continue to serve their particular needs, always with a focus on English and math competence and the challenges of the MCAS, which

most of our high school students will be taking this year.

Major funding for the ALC comes from Danversbank Foundation, Amelia Peabody, and Norman Read Foundation.

Governor's Visit:



Governor Patrick was a surprise visitor at the ALC in September. Come again!

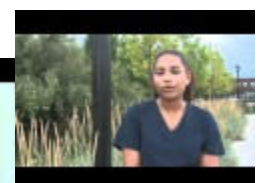
Visit the NEW Salem CyberSpace You Tube Channel

Salem CyberSpace has created its own channel to begin to aggregate the videos of its programs. With funding from the Massachusetts Challenge Access Grant through the Commonwealth of MA Department of Higher Education, we

just completed three videos describing the College Application process through the eyes of four College Success college students.

These may currently be viewed through our Salem CyberSpace

YouTube channel and will soon be available through our new College Success website. Stay tuned!



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Thank You City of Salem

CyberYouth is partially funded by the City of Salem Department of Planning and Community Development, US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

Salem CyberSpace is proud to be named one of four Gables Settlement Partners



www.salemcyberspace.org

Salem CyberSpace does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, familial status, sexual orientation or disability.

SAVE THE DATE GREAT EXPECTATIONS SPRING FUNDRAISER Celebrate A Decade of Success Contact Linda Saris for more information

Anyone who is anyone will be at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, at 6:30 PM at the first ever Great Expectations Fundraiser to celebrate Salem CyberSpace's First Decade of Success.

Unbelievable but it has been 10 years. Over 500 adults have been trained, and 100 youth per year are served by our programs. 100% of our students who have spent at least two years in our programs and joined College Success, finish high school and go on to post-secondary education. To date our college retention rate is 90%.

Having places like Salem CyberSpace couldn't be more critical as urban schools

struggle to develop students who are college and/or career ready and have the critical thinking and problem solving skills to achieve their own personal goals and successes.

Enjoy food, music and an entertaining evening of Trivia Night Competition.

**JUNE 5 @
6:30 pm**



Sponsor a table and let your employees or friends enjoy a fun evening and bring home the prize.

SAVE THE DATE and stay tuned for more information.

Salem CyberSpace Partners with North Shore Technology Council sponsors Youth Tech Tours

Salem CyberSpace, Salem Boys and Girls Club and the North Shore Technology Council partnered to arrange for 14 middle school students from all the Salem middle schools -- Bowditch, Collins, Salem Academy and Saltonstall — to visit Analogic in Peabody and Osram Sylvania in Beverly.



ANALOGIC

SYLVANIA

Mark Namaroff and Janine Contillo did a great job showing 8 boys around the factory and teaching them about imaging products and their applications in medicine.

Julia Gibbs and many wonderful engineers at Sylvania taught the youth about lighting, research in high efficiency lighting (including LED's) and about jobs and careers. At both companies students met mechanical, electrical, software, human factors and chemical engineers as well as physicists who are all involved in research and product development. Two more tours are schedule for the spring.