

FY 23 Hampden County Urban 4-H Youth Programs

Status: APPROVED

Project Director

LAUREN DUBOIS

Organization Project Number

Organization

University of Massachusetts

Accession Number

7002067

Start & End Date

10/01/2020

To Project / Program

"Hampden County 4-H Urban Programs"

Primary Critical Issue

Youth Development

Fiscal Year

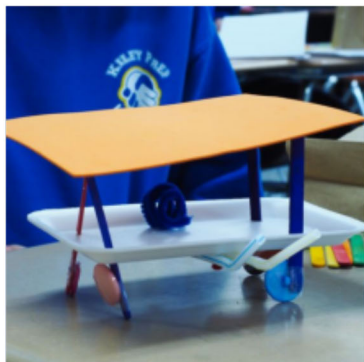
2023

In 2-3 sentences, briefly describe the issue or problem that your project addresses.

Our program reaches an underserved youth population to promote currently underrepresented STEM fields.

Briefly describe in non-technical terms how your major activities helped you achieve, or make significant progress toward, the goals and objectives described in your non-technical summary.

A Teacher's Perspective



Kiley Prep science teacher Brianna Rivers enjoys the 4-H addition to her classroom. "My students respond remarkably well to the 4-H program. This is the third eight-week cycle we have participated in. There is a healthy sense of competition with the challenges that really engages my class. 4-H brings a unique engineering-design perspective."

She says there's an intriguing set of benefits to the program, as well. "Students in my class will compete in engineering design challenges, but 4-H offers a rich variety of challenges centered around a particular topic. The facilitators are extremely knowledgeable and there is always a story or unique set of facts that accompany every lesson. The 4-H activities utilize critical thinking and hands-on experiences without the pressure of assessments. It is more creative and less stressful for students."

<https://www.umass.edu/natural-sciences/news/umass-extension-expands-4-h-offer-urban-program>

Briefly describe how your target audience benefited from your project's activities.

They have a better understanding of STEM related concepts.

UMass collaborates directly with Springfield school administrators to make certain the in-school programs fit well with their specific needs and curricula.

UMass faculty and staff go to the schools to meet students and discuss the importance of STEAM. These visits have the added benefit of giving the students some familiar faces when they head north to campus for field trips. What's more, the 4-H programming makes college learning familiar. Our programs are all hands-on, and we run them like a college class. Youth all receive a syllabus, and know exactly what lessons will be taught, our learning objectives, and a tie-in to future careers.

Briefly describe how the broader public benefited from your project's activities.

We have introduced communities in Hampden County to the resources that UMass Amherst has to offer. Our programs have resulted in collaborations between the Springfield/Holyoke communities and the University staff/faculty/students to support our main goal of increasing interest in higher education and STEM careers.

Comments (optional)

- 4-H STEAM Summer Programs (6) 184 youth participants. 85 male/99 female
- After school program workshops (8) 150 youth participants 80 male/70 female
- In-school programs (2) 50 youth participants 30 male/20 female
- Program 4-H staff meetings with collaborators and college student mentors (12) 24 adult participants 12 male/12 female