

UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY MINI-GRANT FINAL REPORT – JUNE 2012

Program Title: Extended support for ASCENT (Achieving Success through Challenges in Engineering aNd Technology).

Objectives: Extend the ASCENT opportunity to the Nash/Edgecombe Boys & Girls Clubs.

How was the identified need addressed and how effective was the project?

The need for maintaining and expanding the ASCENT program was and is clear from the area middle grades EOGs and from the requests from our area superintendents, curriculum supervisors and parents for increased academic enrichment opportunities for these students. Interest surveys were completed by student participants before and after their involvement with ASCENT, and these surveys indicated a high level of student interest and satisfaction. The Education Coordinator at the YMCA and the site coordinator for the Nashville Boys & Girls Club both provided glowing testimonials regarding the impact of the ASCENT program.

Describe how the project effectiveness was evaluated.

ASCENT was evaluated by a self made evaluation form. The results are as follows:

- 1) As a result of participating in the ASCENT program, I have a better understanding of engineering and the types of work that engineers perform. 100% indicated Agree or Strongly Agree.
 - 2) The program has changed my attitude towards science and math. 84% indicated Agree or Strongly Agree.
 - 3) The program has increased my interest in a career in a science related field. 93% indicated Agree or Strongly Agree.
 - 4) I enjoyed participating in the ASCENT program this school year. 100% indicated Agree or Strongly Agree.
 - 5) I would recommend this program to my friends. 93% indicated Agree or Strongly Agree.
- Student comments include, "Can't wait until next year. I loved everything!"

Will the program continue? Describe plans to continue, extend, or modify this program for the future.

Based on the need for and success of the initial offering of ASCENT, the ECU/NCSU Collaborative at the Gateway Technology Center has committed to partially funding ASCENT through their appropriated budget. The Collaborative has also secured a North Carolina Community Foundation Grant which will go toward supporting ASCENT, and the YMCA partnered with the Collaborative on a large Burroughs/Wellcome Grant Application which would fund the current and expanded ASCENT offerings.

Publication, presentations, articles, press releases, etc.

The ASCENT program was featured in the Rocky Mount Telegram (12/17/2011, see attachment); it was also featured in the Fall/Spring 2011/12 Newsletter from the ECU/NCSU Collaborative (see attachment); information about ASCENT was shared at the GTC, Inc Board Meetings and the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce Education Committee reports. Participation in ASCENT led to the YMCA's involvement in the 2012 North Carolina Science Festival in which ASCENT students and teachers participated in hands-on science projects serving almost 250 individuals (April 21, 2012).

Additionally, all lessons plans for each ASCENT session and engineering project was made available to the eight teachers who volunteered at each ASCENT session.

BUILDING THE FUTURE



Telegram photo / Alan Campbell

Nashae Davis, 12, left, and Maleah Ausberry, 11, laugh while creating a puff mobile Friday during the N.C. State University ASCENT program at the Gateway Technology Center.

Students learn engineering hands-on

By **JIM HOLT**
Staff Writer

Packaging a single Pringles chip and having it shipped west to Raleigh isn't a common practice, but that's exactly what middle schoolers are doing in N.C. State University's ASCENT Program to take a hands-on approach to exploring the different engineering field.

The "Ship a Chip" project is just one of the many endeavors 10- to 13-year-olds in the YMCA's after school program have undertaken at the Gateway Technology Center as part of a series of engineering workshops dubbed ASCENT,

"It's very important to offer these kinds of workshops for the kids."

JACKIE ESULE
YMCA After School Program director

or Achieving Success through Challenges in Engineering and Technology.

The program, held every third Friday of the month, was launched in September as an outreach effort aimed at giving local children who may have not been able to attend the summer's N.C. State University

Engineering Camp a chance to explore the different facets of the trade, including civil, industrial, mechanical, chemical and electrical engineering.

"It's very important to offer these kinds of workshops for the kids because, right now, the big thing in school is with (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)," said Jackie Esule, YMCA After School Program director. "A lot of these kids could not really afford to come to a summer camp program and pay the \$200-\$300. Now, they're actually getting this knowledge and are able to take it back to their schools."

She said that after speaking

See *STUDENTS*, 5A

Wo vete join Purple H continua

By

Army Spc. Lat
coma after she wa
rocket-propelled g
sion in Iraq.

When she awak
ed she would keep
titude.

And she did.

No matter how
doctors gave her, L
ing.

Lucas, 32, is an
an and a Purple H
She recently was a
U.S. Department o
fairs Advisory Cou

After she was in
five months in the
that included bro
damage and a tra
learn to walk again

"It was a long ar

Her recovery is
has served her wel

Lucas has retir
serves as a motiva
ipient of the Ton
named for former
Tony Snow

She is a Washing
few years she has
Colorado Springs

Lucas became c
sory Committee o
are veterans. The

S

News from the ECU/NCSU Collaborative @ the Gateway Technology Center

www.gatewaytechnologycenter.org

252.446.2585

H I G H L I G H T : N E W A N D C O N T I N U I N G P R O G R A M S

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING:

- "Our program would not have been a success if it were not for the attentive staff at the GTC."
- "The GTC is accessible, modern, comfortable, and well-maintained. I feel quite proud of our ability to hold our teleconferences at your location for the past 2 years."
- "Superb service—friendly service, courteous, professional, respectful. Why would anyone go anywhere else?"
- "This is a great meeting place & our regional director really liked meeting at the GTC."

FUTURE SCHOOL LEADERS

Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA) is an innovative school leader preparation model from the NCSU College of Education designed to develop 21st Century school leaders for rural, high-need schools in North Carolina, initially funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and NC Department of Public Instruction. Additional funding was secured by NC's Race to the Top award by the U.S. Department of Education.

The focus of NELA is to rigorously select, train, place, and support more

than 60 school leaders in Northeastern North Carolina. NELA Fellows (our students) will make a three-year, post-degree commitment to work in high-need schools in Northeast NC, thus, creating a critical mass of turn-around specialists for these districts.



Currently Cohort I (Warren, Hertford, Bertie, Northampton, Roanoke Rapids, Halifax, and Weldon City) Fellows are engaged in a full-time principal internship.

Cohort II (Franklin, Edgecombe, Vance, Nash-Rocky Mount, Granville, and Martin) Fellows are just beginning their coursework. Cohort III will begin in the Fall of 2012.

MORE ENGINEERING OPPORTUNITIES!

The NCSU College of Engineering has offered their Middle and Elementary Grades Engineering Camp at the GTC for many years, and they will add a high school camp for Summer, 2012. This addition will allow older students exposure to engineering principles as

well as providing continuity for students involved in the previous camps. The High School Engineering Camp will be offered at the GTC June 25-29th, and will feature the same activities offered on the NCSU Engineering Camp located on the Raleigh campus. 30 stu-

dents will be accepted into this great summer enrichment program. Applications are now being accepted online at <http://www.engr.ncsu.edu/theengineeringplace/summerprograms/high-school/day.php>

SUMMER, 2012 CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Plans are now underway for Summer, 2012 academic enrichment camps from the GTC. Nine different enrichment programs will be offered during Summer, 2012. They include:

- Vet Camp.

- 3 levels of Engineering Camps.
- NC Wesleyan College Shelton Challenge.
- Math Camp.
- 10th Grade Writing Workshops.
- 4-H Bio-tech Camp.
- NCSU Reading Program.

Information and applications may be found at the Collaborative website at: www.gatewaytechnologycenter.com



NC Senator Buck Newton visits 4-H Bio-tech camp

To date, almost 37,000 individuals have been served by the ECU/NCSU Collaborative at the GTC, join us for exciting programs in 2012!

ECU'S MASTER IN SOCIAL WORK

The East Carolina University School of Social Work continues the legacy of providing MSW distance education opportunities for working students at the Gateway Technology Center in Rocky Mount. The partnership between the GTC and the School of Social Work started in 2003 and the fourth group of stu-

dents is scheduled to graduate Spring, 2014. The program uses a three year part-time cohort model that provides face to face and hybrid instruction on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Students attend classes for three summer sessions and six semesters. The MSW Distance Education Cohort Model pro-

vides advanced social work skills to students who cannot matriculate in a full time course of study in this tight economy. The 60 credit hour degree includes class work and two internships that are coordinated through the Office of Field Education.

COLLABORATIVE / ENGINEERING GRANT

The ECU/NCSU Collaborative and The Engineering Place at NCSU were awarded a Diversity Mini-Grant from NCSU. The grant will help fund the ASCENT (Achieving Success through Challenges in Engineering and Technology) program. The ASCENT program offers the same hands-

on engineering design projects offered via the summer camps to middle grade students at the Rocky Mount YMCA and Nash/Edgecombe Boys & Girls Clubs.

