

CT Scholars Academy

One School's STEM Evolution

CT Scholars Academy in New Haven participated in Workforce Alliance's STEM project for 2007-2008. Teachers and administrators were enthusiastic and report positive feedback from their students. According to Judy Puglisi, Assistant Principal at CT Scholars Academy, the school plans the following activities based on the outcomes of the STEM pilot:

- 4 new course offerings for September 2008 which include; Innovations Academy (previously an after school program), Intro to Technology Freshman Portfolio, Innovations in Biotechnology (teacher to be trained this summer), Exploring History Through Media and the Arts.
- All freshman teachers will be required to integrate technology into their instruction starting September 2008, using a new laptop cart dedicated exclusively to 9th grade student and teachers.
- Guidelines for a new credit retrieval program using math and science computer software is being developed. This program will be available to students who have fallen behind in their course work and wish to make up credits. In cooperation with college tutors, students will work on self-paced computer programs after school to make up lost credit.
- Lesson plans that incorporate STEM learning in the areas of Biology, Algebra 1, Computer Technology, Geometry and Intro to Physics/Chemistry will be highlighted on our school website.
- A student-created STEM brochure will be prepared for our new website.
- Engineers are scheduled to present to EVERY freshman class during the month of September 2008 in order to introduce STEM careers to students.
- An October 2008 trip to UCONN has been scheduled to discuss careers in math, science, and technology. All freshman students will attend this full day trip. (Educational Talent Search is funding this trip)
- We are currently planning Girls in Engineering days at both Yale and Cornell Universities.
- We are working this summer to book Professional Development for math and science teachers in order to increase math and science CAPT scores and ultimately increase the number of students electing to major in these subjects in college.
- We are currently communicating with Yale and Columbia Universities to develop a professional development partnership. United Illuminating will fund stipends for teachers to come in one week early in August. Topics will include Differentiated Instruction, Cooperative Learning and Increasing Student Motivation in Math and Science.
- All incoming 9th grade students are invited to participate in a 5 week technology camp that includes career awareness, field trips and \$500 stipend upon successful completion. This camp will also award high school credit.

