



NEWS

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High School Students Soar in College Experience *El Camino College and CSU Dominguez Hills UBMS Program Partner for a Successful STEM Summer Program*

South Bay and Centinela Valley high school students had the opportunity to take an in-depth look into science, technology, engineering and math fields this past summer during a collaborative four-week STEM Young Scholars Summer Program. El Camino College and the California State University, Dominguez Hills TRIO Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) Program organized the program.

ECC Coordinator Josefina Bedolla said the free summer program gave students a chance to discover careers in fields such as biology, engineering, computer science and math they previously might not have considered.

Students participated in presentations, activities and hands-on workshops that included classroom competitions and visits from speakers in STEM fields, said ECC program adviser Wendy Macias. Career field trips designed to introduce different STEM careers were also taken to locations such as Disneyland, the Discovery Science Center and UCLA.

This year's collaborative venture reached an unprecedented number of students. The 2015 STEM project was extremely successful, said Tiffany Samuel, director of CSU Dominguez Hills' Upward Bound Math-Science Program, especially since the efforts provided opportunities for outreach to more students across more grade levels.

"Historically, STEM high school students from low-income, first-generation backgrounds need motivation and opportunities to encourage them to become STEM majors in college and to pursue advanced science and math coursework in high school," Samuel said. "Also, STEM students need a strong college prep curriculum to both qualify for university admission and succeed during their first year of college. That said, it was indeed a great opportunity to bring our two focused STEM initiatives together."

The CSU Dominguez Hills UBMS program incorporated the ECC Young Scholars into the second phase the summer program, where students traveled to ECC via the Gardena Transit System and utilized Student TAP cards to experience commuting to college. UBMS students also completed a residential component at USC and concluded with a STEM college and career tour in Arizona.

"After the program many students said that they are now aware of how science fits into our daily lives," Bedolla said. "This is exactly what we are trying to do – introduce the many implications of science. One student said 'the program gave me confidence that I can be anything I want to be' – that's taking it one step further. STEM is where the jobs are going to be in the future. We are here to help students get there."

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