



**West Virginia VISTA Summer Associates
A Wrap Up Report for the
West Virginia's Promise-The Alliance for Youth
2014 VISTA Summer Associates**

Program Highlights

VISTA Summer Associates engaged in numerous activities with a primary emphasis on

- Working with Title 1 Schools
- Education programming to prevent summer learning loss
- USDA Summer Feeding Program (can be in partnership with educational programming)
- Programs to support Veterans and Military Families

To date activities include (including number of Members involved, if appropriate):

A total of 24 Summer Associate Promise VISTA members are placed throughout the state in child and youth serving organizations to identify, enhance and increase community awareness to mobilize communities to provide all Five Promises to children and youth. Members focused on serving children & youth in poverty, at risk of dropping out of school to prevent summer learning loss for students and expand the USDA Summer Food Service Program or the USDA Seamless Summer Programs.

While providing one or more of the above primary emphasis, 33 Summer Associates were also engaged in numerous hands on STEM activities and served on developing the capacity for schools and communities to address STEM and build programs that met this need, through ensuring school/business/community partnerships are effective and guidelines for working together to implement, develop written materials/templates for STEM partnerships, create interactive STEM resource website, coordinate with various groups and youth on STEM activities (Tree Board, Boy Scouts, Churches, 4-H camps, Energy Express, County Fairs) and recruit volunteers opportunities to facilitate STEM activities.

Successes

1. Number of active community volunteers recruited: 684
2. Number of active community volunteers recruited who are veterans or military family members: 14
3. Hours of service performed by community volunteers: 12,697
4. Total number of beneficiaries served: 4,257

Challenges

12 SA's report challenges:

SA Brittany Fox serving at Morgan County Partnership reports challenges including spreading information about the 40 Developmental Assets Summer Scavenger Hunt and getting youth interested in participating but worked out to be a success.

SA Andrew Reabe serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports paperwork as a challenge, but completes it on time.

SA Eli Hill serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports working with children that had behavioral issues a challenge.



SA Karita Kennedy at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club report paperwork as a challenge, but completes it on time.

SA Jessica Cash serving through The Education Alliance/United Way The River Cities reports “We knew that going into the Marcum Terrace community would come with its own set of challenges. The community at large is very insular and resistant to outside help, in order to accomplish our goals in reaching the children of the community; we first had to establish a relationship with the community members. We were amazed and excited by the fact that once we had established that relationship with them, we saw a dramatic increase in parent involvement and interaction with their children during our family literacy activities.”

SA Annie Brownfield serving at WVSU Extension reports “The children I served are very transient, so numbers are difficult to estimate. One day, there could be four kids at the community center for me to teach while the next day; there could be fifteen different kids. This made it challenging to build onto previous lessons since the kids may not have learned them.”

SA Cadance Young serving at WVSU Extension reports challenges “Community empowerment. They accepted the programs and would work with me, but lacked the ability to see themselves running a garden.”

SA Kaitlin Dobbins serving at WVSU Extension reports challenges “The main challenge we had was preparing activities for the transportation camp on time because it was short notice and I had never worked a camp before.”

SA Haleigh Jeffrey serving at WVU Extension Keys 4 Healthy Kids reports one challenge was communication with the directors and staff of the child care center. However, we realized this is a systemic problem because the staff including director is work with children all day. They did not have time to do much extra. Therefore, we made site visit and accommodated their schedule to get the work completed.

SA Bradley Milner serving at WVU Extension Keys 4 Healthy Kids reports a challenge was learning new skills I never thought I would use. Learning how to; look at a site, and envision the space with garden beds, measure the available space, purchase the lumber and other supplies, assemble, and install the garden beds. This was a large process to learn, and proved challenging to keep up with, but with support, I was able to complete most projects.

SA’s Muriah Nutter and Veronica Hamrick serving at WVU Extension Roane County reports they wanted to offer a 4-H Cloverbud day camp for youth in our community. They could not secure a site to hold the day camp on dates that would work with everyone’s schedules who would have needed to be involved to make the event successful and meet adult to youth ratios required by West Virginia 4-H policy.

SA Michael Culicerto serving at Wyoming County Family Resource Center reports a challenge was my start date logging on to the webinar. I finally got it fixed and ready in time. Other than that, everything went really well.

Special Recognition / Upcoming Events

Please included copies of any press clippings, flyers, letters, and other documentation that relates to your project’s activities and accomplishments.



Appalachian Impact

Site Supervisor: Justin Bowers

Summer Associates: Will Squires, Taylor Fealy



Bottom Row: **Bryan**, Matty Cox, **Angel**, Taylor Rice.

Top Row: Conner Brown, Avery Brown, Lexi Fealy, Noah Nichols, Robert DeBarr, T.J. Cox, Dani Hovis, Keyton Lainer

Here the campers are holding up the blankets that they helped tie together and make for the Linus Project. The children were ecstatic that they got to be a part of something to help other children their age and put a smile on their face.

Boys and Girls Club Pleasants County

Site Supervisor: Kristi Venderlic

Summer Associates: Cody Moore



**Catholic Charities Promise House
Site Supervisor: Kathie Campbell**

Summer Associates: Lauree Lorenson and Bradley Dugan

News paper article from Catholic Charities Promise House, SA's Lauree Lorenson and Bradley Dugan



Page B2 — Monday, June 30, 2014

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Journal photo by Jenni Vincent
Volunteer mentors are needed to help with the new "Fit Kids Berkeley" program that's held weekday mornings, except on Wednesdays, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. at Berkeley Heights Elementary School. Participants are bused to the site and mentors interact with them as they walk, run and generally learn how to improve their overall fitness. The program runs through Aug. 8.

Journal photo by Jenni Vincent
Mentors work at the "Fit Kids Berkeley" program that's held weekday mornings, except on Wednesdays, from 9:45-10:45 a.m. at Berkeley Heights Elementary School.

Taking Shape

Mentors needed for 'fit kids' program

BY JENNI VINCENT
jvincent@journal-news.net

MARTINSBURG — It's mid-morning and an energetic group of youngsters have already walked a mile around the track at Berkeley Heights Elementary School. Some ran part of that distance; all of them took part in stretching exercises before starting the hourlong session.

After a short break, students flock to water bottles on a table under a portable canopy that provides some welcome shade as they compare notes about who ran the fastest or walked the longest. Soon they're ready to go again, but this time lining up in teams to play a relay game with a ball.

It's all part of a new program being piloted this summer, "Fit Kids Berkeley," at the Martinsburg Boys and Girls Club that combines running, walking and information on healthy lifestyles. Participants, ages 5-18, are bused to the site every weekday except Wednesday to learn more about how walking and running can improve their overall fitness, said Kathie Campbell of Catholic Charities

program, which she hopes will spread to other communities. She said it was a collaborative project, involving The Wellness Center at Berkeley Medical Center, Berkeley County Schools, West Virginia University Extension Service Berkeley County, Change the Future WV, The Women's Ministry of Destiny Baptist Church and West Virginia's Promise.

"As you can see, the kids are here and being challenged, so we are really excited about how this program can help them get fit and learn to appreciate the value of exercise as well as eating healthily. We're trying to get some concepts across this summer that hopefully they will take with them into the future," Campbell said.

Despite the morning's rising humidity, Lauree Lorenson, a West Virginia University sophomore home for the summer who's helping coordinate the program with fellow Vista volunteer Brad Dugan, still had plenty of energy as she led the group in some stretches before introducing a new activity.

An athlete who played soccer for 13 years, Lorenson smiled as

run faster. Another sixth-grader, Kaseen Humphrey, didn't mind sweating as he ran because running track is not new to him. "I like to run all the time, because it helps your legs and keeps your lungs good. And it helps when you play sports," he said.

A self-described tomboy, fifth-grader Emily Earehart said she planned to devote her summer to running as well as playing soccer, basketball and football. "I have two brothers and it makes me want to do more boy-ish things," she said with a giggle.

But Lorenson also had plenty of time for others, including some young girls who preferred holding her hand as they slowly made their way around the asphalt-paved path.

"These are great kids and they are really excited, pretty well disciplined when it comes to things like running. One of the little girls and I discovered when we were walking that we have the same birthday, so I told her we'd have cupcakes for it. We want them to have fun here — that's important too when you work with kids. But overall I hope they leave with a better

Program FROM PAGE B1

That kind of compassion and dedication to working with young people is also nothing new to Robin Truax, a retired health, physical education and leadership teacher who's a mentor with the new program and working to recruit additional volunteers. The two-month program runs through Aug. 8.

"The last five years I was working I ran a program called 'West Virginia Kids in Action.' We ran health fairs in schools and did summer camps with the whole concept based on being healthy at any weight, so I do know how this kind of dynamic can work to motivate students and I love being here," she said.

"Especially since this program is new, we can always use more volunteers, especially men. People come different days and we work it

mentors, because that means they can work with smaller groups," Truax said.

Mentors can walk and exercise with the youngsters, as well as talk and encourage them to be more physically fit, she said, adding that college students home on summer break are also encouraged to volunteer their time.

Some participants are already more motivated about moving than when the program began earlier this month, Truax said, adding that some are getting a little faster on the 40-yard dashes.

"They have pedometers and are already seeing results when they compare how far they walked today as opposed to yesterday, so we definitely want to encourage that kind of thinking," she said.

"As a matter of fact, a lit-

she'd walked over a thousand steps and it was so cute because she wasn't sure how to read it, but she was so psyched," Truax said.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a mentor should contact Truax at 304-263-3044 or rtruax1@frontier.com.

Ready to join a group on the track, volunteer mentor Alice McCarthy said she wanted to "support the program's effort to make a difference in the kid's physical fitness level over their summer break" and really believes this idea is something that can lead to a healthier life.

Additional program information is available by contacting Campbell at 304-267-8837 or kcampbell@ccwva.org.

— Staff writer Jenni Vin-



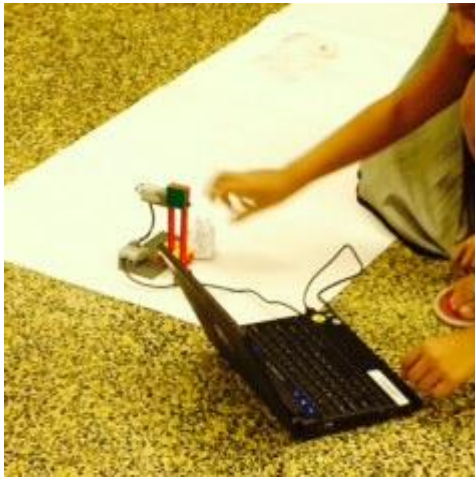
Destiny Baptist Church

Site Supervisor: Charlotte Norris, Email: cenorris12@gmail.com

Summer Associates: Kydesha Bell and Gary Awkard

July 2, 2014: The 23 students attending summer program at Burke Street School receive an hour of math instruction Monday thru Thursday. This week on Tuesday and Wednesday, they participated in Lego Robotics activities for three hours. Our two Summer Vista assisted with the activities.





Family Connections

Site Supervisor: Michael Smith

Summer Associate: Allison Jones





FLOC Outdoor Education Center
Site Supervisor: Katie Nolan
Summer Associate: Jason Brackett



Jefferson County Schools BOE
Site Supervisor: Debra Arvon
Summer Associate: Ian Hillman

Morgan County Starting Points Center
Site Supervisor: Audrey Morris
Summer Associates: Carrie Boone and Caleb Murray





Ranson Elementary School
Site Supervisor: Cathie Burke
Summer Associates: Clifford Corbett and Brittany Stillwell

Rock Lake Community Life Center
Site Supervisor: Rick McGuire
Summer Associates: Crystal Hays and Brienna Jenkina



The Education Alliance
Site Supervisor: Emily Pratt
Summer Associates: Jason Harns and Ruvelle Nahdi Bropleh





United Way of the River Cities, Cabell County

Site Supervisor: Sara Blevins

Summer Associate: Jessica Cash



WVU Extension Kanawha

Site Supervisor: Laura Dice

Summer Associates: Emily Bolinger, Haleigh Jeffrey, Hannah Jeffrey, and Bradley Miller



Wyoming County Family Resource Center

Site Supervisor: Tina Acord

Summer Associates: Michael Culicerto, Dustin Brunty, Kristin Riffle, and Alex Stewart



Program Highlights

VISTA Summer Associates (**33 summer associates**) engaged in numerous hands on activities with a primary emphasis on STEM. We served **2,136** children with daily activities in the core areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

To date activities include: STEM

Boys & Girls Club of Parkersburg

Site Supervisor: Bethany Lewis

Summer Associates: Brittany Pribble, Elena Robinson, Jesse LaMar, Joshua Hughes, Melissa

Hoosier, Travis Kersenbrock

145 students participated in Computer Instruction, Coding, Robotic Legos, Digital Photography/Photo Editing, Gardening, Typing, Tech Squad, as well as several special events. Special events included a week long exploration of animals with daily visits from a bearded dragon, crickets, albino rabbits, box turtle, beta fish, and a parrot. SA's built several projects including marble roller coasters and motorized cars. SA's assisted with the leadership and instruction of a Tech Squad. The Tech Squad consists of approximately fifteen 9-12 year olds who design activities for the members at large. They used power point/internet research to construct Jeopardy games, lead Win-Lose-Paint (like Pictionary) using paint program/projector, and being internet DJ for weekly dance parties. Also, internet safety, computerized design, video game development, and exploration of solar system/aviation, simple machines, biomes, and the human body.

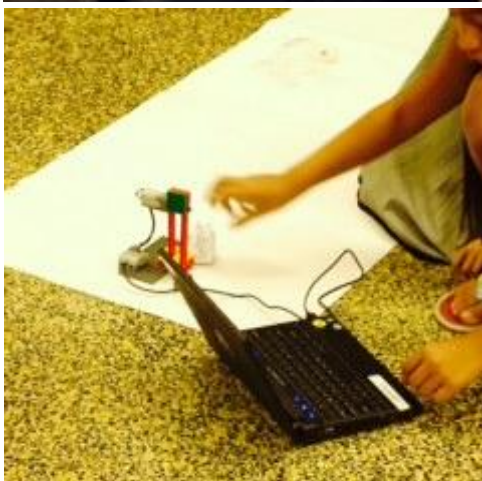




**Destiny Baptist Church, Burke Street Elementary School/Winchester Ave Elementary School
Site Supervisor: Charlotte Norris**

Summer Associates: Kydesha Bell and Gary Awkard 23 students received an hour of math instruction Monday thru Thursday participating in Lego Robotics activities for three hours.







Morgan County Starting Points/WVU Extension

Site Supervisor: Megan Scott

Summer Associates: Brittany Fox

215 students participate in STEM classes at 4-H camp, campers were able to launch 2 liter soda bottle rockets, learned to use GPS units and worked with Lego Minestorm robots. SA also created boxes that are available for teachers to borrow from WVU Extension office that make use of the National 4-H STEM experiments from the past 4 or 5 years.



Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club

Site Supervisor: Jenica Schoolcraft

Summer Associates: Heather Johnson, Christa Varner, Andrew Rreabe, Eli Hill, and Karita Kennedy

186 students participated in STEM activities working on Club Tech, the Clay tech portion of the programming where they worked on making stop motion videos. They learned how the process of making a short film, designing characters, background and storytelling. Additionally, students learned to use camera hardware, to upload pictures and use Window's Media Maker to finalize and edit their projects. 10 students visited the NASA center where a facilitator ran an aviation program with them.





Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Site Supervisor: Ellen Murphy

Summer Associates: Amy Moore, Jennifer Moore, and Carl Thomas

196 students participated in STEM activities exploring Yankauer Preserve learned about insects and mammals with active games and activities. Each camp focused on the environment and nature discovery. At Nature Detectives week, the kids explored nature up close and personal at Yankauer Preserve. Activities included; dissecting a log to find insects, learning about insects and their behavior (body parts, etc), making plaster of paris animal tracks and learning about tracking, examining animal skins (rabbit, deer, groundhog, possum, bear, etc), and dissecting owl pellets and identifying the bones inside. Campers played games like "Oh Deer" which helps them understand the importance of habitat and how an overabundance or lack of one part of food, water, or shelter can impact the animal population.





Richwood Public Library

Site Supervisor: Robin Bartlett

Summer Associate: Bonnie Young

41 students participated in STEM through various activities such as; Germs and how they spread by sneezing using a balloon filled with glitter and confetti, Polymers and their reactions to sharp objects (pencil through a bag of water), Built Robots, Orbeez or water beads to show water reaction to the beads, Mouth harps vibration and sound, Glow sticks and the science behind them, Decorated cookies to look like germs, Metallic paper, made germs that showed gradually Elephant toothpaste out of peroxide and yeast, Make butter, Made germ buster boxes, with band aids, toothpaste, Kleenex, toothbrushes and floss, Melt plastic cups to show how heat changes the form of objects, Nature and sounds of the night, with a nature box of trails of area and a scavenger hunt for nature items.



WVSU

Site Supervisor: Brad Cochran

Summer Associates: Anna Brownfield, Tristan Lively, Emily Moore, Cadance Young, and Kaitlyn Dobbins

100 students participated in STEM through various activities in HSTA (Health, Sciences and Technology Academy) and STI (Summer Transportation Institute) camps. Students participated in STI challenges that include the Structure Challenge, Catapult Challenge, Rollercoaster Challenge, Boat Challenge and Bridge Challenge, as well as rockets. The SCRATCH Project in Huntington, worked with youth on Junior Master Gardener activities with various STEM outcomes resulting from these activities and as part of the PLANTERS Project looking at Preschool gardening initiatives with STEM-based learning associated with them as well. 75 children and youth were involved in other STEM related programs focusing on Health Sciences and Technology Academy (HSTA) Summer Forensic Institute.



WVU Extension Roane

Site Supervisor: Shannon Cottrill

Summer Associates: Muriah Nutter and Veronica Hamrick

700 children and youth participated in STEM in an engineering project to explore alternative methods for heating, cooking, obtaining fresh water, and sanitation. Children learned about the position of the sun and the area's climate to optimize the amount of solar energy that can be collected. Then, materials (pizza boxes, aluminum foil, etc.) were used to fashion a solar oven capable of cooking locally grown tomatoes with Parmesan cheese. Boom, Fizz, Read! The library conducted Bing for Books, children were engaged in two activities: marshmallow catapults and bubbleology. Children demonstrated engineering skills by using the provided materials (rubber bands, craft sticks, spoons) to construct an efficient catapult to launch marshmallows the furthest distance. In addition, children explored density and created bubble wands at the bubbleology station. Additionally, an engineering project to explore alternative methods for heating, cooking, obtaining fresh water, and sanitation. VISTAs collaborated with Energy Express to provide cross-curricular activities to 27 children while integrating science and reading. Older groups read



Now and Ben, a synopsis of Benjamin Franklin's lifetime of inventions, which complemented the scribble bots described by VISTA workers. Children demonstrated the concepts of circuits and rotational vibration by making a scribbling machine. Meanwhile, younger groups read *All the Water in the World*, which weaves together facts about water and the need for water conservation. VISTA workers conducted the STEM activity, *Who Polluted the Potomac?*, to illustrate the importance of water filtration and purity. *The Germs Stop Here!* VISTAs collaborated with Jump Start to educate youth about hand washing and the importance of stopping germs. Youth learned germs could take the form of a bacteria, virus, fungi, or parasite using the GIANTmicrobes. Participants also explored magnetism through the STEM activity, *Creating a Compass*. VISTA's read the Scholastic biography of Christopher Columbus to illustrate the importance of the compass, children began to explore how to create a compass and to determine which is North by magnetizing a small metal object (paper clip). At the Spencer City Pool in the STEM activity, *Edible Worms*. The periodic table was discussed and children gave several examples of elements used in their daily lives. VISTA's explained the role an element's charge achieved in the kitchen. Children learned elements that created the mixtures used to make the edible worms, as well as the role of the filler ingredient. Geary Library hosted a reading program during the month of July focusing on *Charlie the Ranch Dog*. VISTA's provided Ag in a Bag related activities to 21 participating children. Children matched states on the United States map while learning the amount of farming land each state held. Children also differentiated between farms and ranches by matching the correct agriculture card (corn, cattle, ranch hand, etc.) to the corresponding column (farm, ranch, or both). In Ag Science STEM activities at the Spencer Farmer's Market. Youth participated in the Grocery Sorting Game in which products had to be sorted in the proper grocery baskets depending on the ingredients. In addition, raffle winners had the opportunity to create a flower garden bucket using annuals such as vincas, petunias, begonias, and celosias.

At the Roane County Public Library the Stomp Rocket STEM activity engaged participants; if *You Decide to Go to the Moon* was read to introduce astronautics, followed by the construction of individual paper rockets. Newton's 3rd Law was demonstrated as youth launched their rockets. Alka-Seltzer rocket kits were distributed for families to create at home. STEM activity *Ice Cream in a Bag Lab* while discovering food is all about chemistry. VISTA workers discussed the three main biomolecules that make up the foods we eat: carbohydrates, lipids, and proteins. Individuals used rock salt, ice, and shaking force to solidify the ice cream. Youth received education about UV rays. During pool breaks youth participated in STEM activities which included UV bead bracelets, t-shirt heat absorption, chromatography, and solar prints. **UV Bead Bracelets:** Youth designed and fashioned bracelets with beads that detect UV rays. **VISTA workers demonstrated the importance of sunblock and sunglasses using the UV beads.** **T-Shirt Heat Absorption:** Heat absorption by a variety of different colored shirts was measured throughout the day. Youth recorded temperature readings every pool break on a display chart. **Chromatography:** Youth observed the separation of color components using markers, coffee filters, and water. **Solar Prints:** Youth created a permanent image using sun-sensitive sheets. Other Classes offered were, **Fablab:** Youth used design based learning to fabricate "engineering creations" such as scribble bots, stomp rockets, and marshmallow catapults. **Forensic Science:** Youth worked in groups to investigate strawberry DNA and fingerprinting. **The Incredible Pig:** Youth participated in swine curriculum including naming breeds, learning swine body parts, judging market hogs, exploring a digestive system, examining a healthy pig, identifying pork cuts, and practice fitting/showing. **Astronomy:** Youth made pocket sized solar systems and constructed a star wheel. **Techxcite:** Youth learned the basics of robotics and computer science through the construction and programming of NXT and Lego Robotics. **Water Quality:** Youth collaborated in groups to construct a water filtration device that will clean contaminated drinking water.

AMERICORPS
A
VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America



WVU Extension-Taylor

Site Supervisor: Jennifer Murray

Summer Associates: Amber Bradley, Erika Edwards, and Matthew Bartrug

530 students participated in STEM activities which included Marshmallow Catapults which discusses how to build a launcher and the motion it produces. Pocket Solar System, which discuss the facts about space and how big of the distance between planets. UV Beads, which discuss how UV rays can affect us and the protection of sunscreen. Stomp Rockets. NASA's Starlab, Pop-Bottle Rockets, Bubble ology. Nana science activities – thin films, ferrofluids, & 3D images.



Fizz ... boom ... read!

■ For a slideshow of photos from Wednesday's summer reading program, log on to www.timeswv.com.

Kids learn science can be fun in program

BY CHELSI BAKER
TIMES WEST VIRGINIAN

FAIRMONT — Children are learning about science through reading at the Marion County Public Library this summer.

Each year, the library and others nationwide participate in a summer reading program that carries out a universal theme. This year's theme is "Fizz Boom Read," and it is all about science.

"The classes are fun exploration of different types of science things each week," said Christian Cox, the children's librarian at the Marion County Public Library. "This week, we had Matt come in from the Extension (Service)."

Matt Bartrug, an AmeriCorps Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) VISTA volunteer working with West Virginia University Extension

At top, Matt Bartrug, an AmeriCorps Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) VISTA volunteer, creates a tornado with soda bottles at the Marion County Public Library as part of a summer reading program presentation. At right, Kayloria Padfield prepares to launch a marshmallow with a catapult she made during a STEM presentation at the Marion County Public Library. Services, gave a presentation Wednesday morning about basic science concepts. He made a tornado out of water bottles, created a lava lamp and helped the children build their own catapults and bracelets with color-changing UV beads.

Bartrug is a sophomore

SEE STEM, PAGE 4A

STEM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

petroleum engineering student at West Virginia University and a Marion County native. He has also done STEM presentations for children at three Marion County Parks and Recreation Commission playground sites, Fairview Library and a 4-H camp so far this summer.

"I was just trying to expose them to science and give them little tidbits like oil and water don't mix, or the air from one bottle in the tornado is going up to the other, and UV rays come from the sun," he said.

Other topics covered in the reading program throughout the summer include geology, astronomy and archaeology.

"I think the summer reading program is great," said Bartrug. "I was one of Mr. Cox's first kids. I've sort of come full circle with that. It's great because it keeps them involved and it exposes them to stuff they wouldn't get at home ... It might pique an interest at a young age."

The reading program is open to children in grades kindergarten through 5 and is a free service offered by the library.

It helps keep the kids active and current with their progress in reading during the summer, and it gives them something to do away from home, said Cox.

Classes are offered each week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and there are special programs once a week.

The Carnegie Science Center will present Colossal Fossil Fuels at 2 p.m. July 21 as part of this special program series. This and every weekly presentation is open to the public as well as children involved in the summer reading program.

"The main goal is to encourage children to be reading during the summer," Cox said. "We can show how reading can be fun through science or any of the topics that we can encourage them to read."

Email Chelsi Baker at cbaker@timeswv.com or follow her on Twitter @cbakerTWV.

Successes

Any evidence that youth served are learning, demonstrating increased interest in STEM, other success factors.

The STEM Student Star also represents Successes in the STEM programs.

SA's report many students showed a high interest in learning new things about coding with scratch and increased their knowledge with this program, a few students did not have knowledge on how to build things robotics during the robotics class, but soon they were able to build most things without assistance. Multiple students took an interest in photography, and loved to edit photos and use their imaginations, in the typing club almost each student improved their typing speed and accuracy.

SA Christa Varner serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports James, really excelled through spelling. Clyen, Camden and Cole became more comfortable doing projects through NASA Dino activities. Leah has begun to spell words to other staff and participate in spelling activities

Adon has started working with the other members through doing group activities of Clay Tech.

SA Bonne Young serving at Richwood Public Library reports the students got along with each other very well and enjoyed learning each day.



SA Jason Harris and Ruvelle Bropleh serving at The Education Alliance reports indirectly served towards STEM initiatives by providing protocols for ensuring STEM school/business partnerships that are effective and guidelines for working together to implement, developed written materials/templates for STEM partnerships, and created an interactive STEM resource website.

SA Amber Bradley serving at WVU Extension Service Taylor reports a success in children and families returning weekly for the lessons.

Challenges

SA Kydesha Bell serving with Destiny Baptist Church reports field trips was a little bit of a challenge because most of the children we served at Burke Street Elementary School have little bus riding experience because most of the students walk to and from school.

SA Christa Varner serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports having enough supplies for all the kids. Getting all the kids to get along and work as a group as a challenge, but working through it.

SA Andrew Reabe serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports the biggest challenge faced was getting the individuals involved in this program to show an interest in participating in the STEM activities. I found that the children were more interested in the activities if they could actively participate with me. During one activity, the members of the organization used marshmallows to build a structure. Another successful experiment came when putting a balloon over a bottle of soda and watching the reaction that occurred. I found that when the children got to be the ones conducting the experiment, they paid more attention. Another challenge that I had to adapt to was finding a way to get the children to work together to get the desired result of out of the activity.

SA Eli Hill serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports working with large group of children made it difficult to finish projects on time.

SA Karita Kennedy serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports Group 5 Clay Tech were faced with challenged every day. There was one ornery boy in their group who would tease them or mess up their clay after their pieces were completely finished. The girls done the right thing by telling an adult. The girls stayed positive throughout it all, and finally, the problem was solved.

SA's Muriah Nutter and Veronica Hamrick serving at WVU Extension Service Roane County reports they wanted to offer a 4-H Cloverbud day camp for youth in our community. We could not secure a site to hold the day camp on dates that would work with everyone's schedules that would have needed to be involved to make the event successful and meet adult to youth ratios required by West Virginia 4-H policy.

Special Recognition / Upcoming Events

Please included copies of any press clippings, flyers, letters, and other documentation that relates to your project's activities and accomplishments.



STEM Student STAR

Use this section to highlight students who demonstrated significant progress or other success factors.

SA Kydesha Bell serving with Destiny Baptist Church had a student named Eli who was an awesome boy. He had a hard time with reading so it took him longer to finish the stories as fast as all the other kids. Gary, the teachers, and I took turns each day helping him through his struggles. I decided to highlight Eli because he came to summer camp every day and worked very hard to get better. He never let his inability to pass on the first try stop him from trying again. He was an inspiration and by the end he showed progress.

Morgan County Starting Points-WVU Extension SA Caleb Murray reports during the Mindstorms NXT Robotics program one student between the ages of 9 and 10 performed exceptionally well. He was posed with the challenge of navigating a maze constructed by a volunteer. He had only received 2 hours of training, his team members were not the most helpful, and wasn't the first to try his program. He wasn't afraid of failure, but saw it as a means of getting closer to the solution. With a little help, his team's robot made it the farthest.

Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club SA Heather Johnson reports one of the students in the green group, the group that had kids from the 1st through the 3rd grade, was completely uninterested in the learning aspect of the summer program at the club. Every week we had a different theme for learning such as: Ocean commotion, Olympic week, Around the World, etc. Every week we struggled to catch the attention of this one child. We struggled not only to get him interested in the content, but interested and invested in doing the work in general. That was until we started Dinosaur week. Dinosaur week sparked so much interest in this child that he was actually disappointed when we'd take a recess. When we learned about what it was like to be a paleontologist by excavating tiny dinosaur bones, he picked, scraped, and dusted longer than any other child. He was able to see that learning was fun, and even after dinosaur week was over, we saw a major difference during class time. It was if he just needed to find something he liked, in order to move toward success.

SA Christa Varner serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports James, really excelled through spelling. Clyen, Camden and Cole became more comfortable doing projects through NASA Dino activities. Leah has begun to spell words to other staff and participate in spelling activities. Adon has started working with the other members through doing group activities of Clay Tech.

SA Andrew Reabe serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports many of the twelve and thirteen year old students that were engaged in STEM activities benefitted greatly. Many of these children especially the male children really enjoyed the engineering activities. One activity we used toothpicks to create structures, many of the member built will designed structures and were able to use information we discussed through the activity-which showed they were retaining the information. Students enjoyed using the information we taught them in a real-life scenario also.

SA Eli Hill serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports Noah showed improved capability with following directions. Gage showed improvement when socializing with other children. Katelyn showed improved capability to work in groups.



SA Karita Kennedy serving at Mountaineer Boys & Girls Club reports Gage Beavers demonstrated a lot of success factors throughout the summer. He was faced with many challenges, but with his positive attitude and personality, he continued to push through the difficult or challenging days.

SA Carl Thomas serving at Potomac Valley Audubon Society reports several campers (students) showed a significant improvement in their understanding of problems facing local ecosystems. Some of these challenges included the concept of invasive species such as Autumn Olive and Tree of Heaven and their effects on the native plants and animals of the area.

SA Emily Moore serving at WVSU reports within a few weeks, all of the children began to invest more of their attention in the STEM lessons and ran with the ideas we were giving them. They were creative in the crafts they made and showed understanding in the lessons.

SA Cadance Young serving at WVSU reports through the STEM programming, we were able to reach out and teach students within West Virginia about the science of agriculture. Simple science experiments about how food grows along with actually growing plants as a learning tool. Along with continual conversation about photosynthesis and the water cycle, SA taught many children the wonders of the garden. SA met, taught, and interacted with over 130 children, but one child stood out. This young boy came from a food desert and grew up having to plan and keep a garden. He was very curious and always asked the most questions when learning how to work in the garden. His name is RJ Bradshaw. At the bright age of 10 years old, this boy was a student just as much as he was a teacher. He played a large role in my decision to teach certain lessons and really grew as a person.