

## **Title: Hampden County 4-H Urban Programs**

**Project Leader: Lauren Dubois**

### **Project Overview**

Citizens in Massachusetts are appropriately concerned about preparing youth for the challenges of the 21st century. While this concern is understandably focused on academic achievement, young people also need to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes for good health, environmental stewardship, creative expression, and community service. Young people are best able to reach their full potential in environments that offer safety, caring adults, and opportunities for authentic experience. Adults, educators and youth workers need ongoing professional development and curriculum resources in well-designed opportunities to share their expertise and passions with youth in ways that will enable them to grow up to become better citizens, workers, neighbors, and parents.

UMass Extension youth development programs are grounded in positive youth development principles. They ensure safe, inclusive environments as well as opportunities for mastery and active participation. Our 1,600 statewide volunteers provide recreational and social activities during out of school time that are fun and educational. Our longstanding clubs and camps are complemented by innovative program that respond to a national 4-H mandate for educational enrichment in science and technology. We target youth within urban communities and from families confronting the challenges of military deployment, helping caring adults to reach diverse youth and cultivate skills that are critical for future success and active citizenship

The Massachusetts Urban 4-H Program in Springfield and Holyoke strives to expand the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) skills of youth in grades K-9. Through partnerships with a variety of community centers and schools, Massachusetts 4-H provides programming based on national 4-H curricula. This curricula provides a rich and diverse set of research, juried curricula and evaluative methodologies developed by faculty throughout the national system. Project leaders will continue to seek partners in the Springfield and Holyoke communities and at UMASS Amherst to expand the array of educational enrichment and youth development experiences to help prepare youth for success in school while creating these connections amongst the three communities. 100% of the young people we serve are low income, the majority are youth of color, and they are underserved and underrepresented in education compared to their white counterparts in neighboring towns and cities throughout the state.

## **Activity Summary - 2018**

- Program staff meetings with collaborators and college student mentors (6)
- After School Program Workshops 4-H STEAM (182)

### ***Total Educational contacts***

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
In Person	421	8
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)		

## **Narrative Summary and Impact - 2018**

Citizens in Massachusetts are appropriately concerned about preparing youth for the challenges of the 21st century. While this concern is understandably focused on academic achievement, young people also need to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes for good health, environmental stewardship, creative expression, and community service. Young people are best able to reach their full potential in environments that offer safety, caring adults, and opportunities for authentic experience. Adults, educators and youth workers need ongoing professional development and curriculum resources in addition to well-designed opportunities to share their expertise and passions with youth in ways that will enable them to grow up to become better citizens, workers, neighbors, and parents.

UMass Extension youth development programs are grounded in positive youth development principles. They ensure safe, inclusive environments as well as opportunities for mastery and active participation. Our 1,600 statewide volunteers provide recreational and social activities during out of school time that are fun and educational. Our longstanding clubs and camps are complemented by innovative program that respond to a national 4-H mandate for educational enrichment in science and technology. We target youth within urban communities and from families confronting the challenges of military deployment, helping caring adults to reach diverse youth and cultivate skills that are critical for future success and active citizenship.

The Massachusetts Urban 4-H Program in Springfield and Holyoke strives to expand the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) skills of youth in grades K-9. Through partnerships with a variety of community centers and schools, Massachusetts 4-H provides programming based on national 4-H curricula. This curricula provides a rich and diverse set of research, juried curricula and evaluative methodologies developed by faculty throughout the national system. Project leaders will continue to seek partners in the Springfield and Holyoke communities and at UMASS Amherst to expand the array of educational enrichment and youth development experiences to help prepare youth for success in school while creating these connections amongst the three communities. 100% of the young people we serve are low income, the majority are youth of color, and they are underserved and underrepresented in education compared to their white counterparts in neighboring towns and cities throughout the state.

## **Collaborating Organizations**

- Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted (TAG) – Springfield
- Chestnut Academy - Springfield
- Liberty Hill Townhouse Association - Springfield
- Sargeant West Community Center - Holyoke
- South Canal Community Center - Holyoke
- South End Community Center - Springfield