

Title: Hampden County 4-H Urban Programs

Project Leader: Lauren Dubois

Project Overview

Hampden County 4-H Urban Programs will engage young people in the cities of Springfield and Holyoke in the out of school time hours to provide educational enrichment and promote life skills development. To achieve this goal, 4-H will partner with several community based organizations in both cities and with University of Massachusetts Community Service Learning students who will be the tutor/mentors to the young people attending the programs.

The Massachusetts 4-H Program is uniquely positioned in Massachusetts to assist in delivering quality educational programs in out-of-school settings. The National 4-H Curriculum System 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 connections and pathways between Springfield and Holyoke youth and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Activity Summary - 2015

- 4-H Program Staff Meetings with Community Partners and UMass Students (40)
- After School Program Workshops (2)
- Curricula development for Springfield CYFAR Sustainable Communities Project.(2)
- Learning Through Community Engagement (Teaching - Undergraduate Course) (1)

Total Educational contacts

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
In Person	38	25
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)		

Narrative Summary and Impact

The Massachusetts 4-H Youth Development Program in Holyoke and Springfield serves youth ages 5 to 18. We work with community centers in their after-school programs focusing primarily on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). We provide facilitation, curriculum, volunteers, and program supplies to ensure engaged and successful learning. Other opportunities include tours of the University of Massachusetts, Veterinary Science career exploration workshops at the UMass Hadley Farm and Dakin Animal Shelter, special site visits from UMass students and faculty, opportunity to run an activity or showcase a completed project at the Big E on 4-H day, hands on gardening in the Holyoke community garden, and transportation to events on Campus, such as the bi-annual Science Quest Event <https://www.umass.edu/massnanotech/scienceQUEST/>.

We push the young people in our programs to practice their public speaking skills by encouraging them to present their completed projects to their after-school group. We incorporate leadership and team work into all aspects of our projects and activities. By connecting each project and activity to the real world, the youth are able to experience learning hands on that will give them the skill set and ideas for a successful future of their choosing.

During the summer, in addition to working with our Community partners existing summer programs, the 4-H Youth Development Program runs an annual Summer of Science (SOS) workshop on the UMass Campus (three days and two overnights) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzFWormq-o0>. We reserve 10-12 spots for young people from Holyoke and Springfield to participate in the SOS workshop. In June 2015, we offered day long tracks in Veterinary Science, Movie Making, Robotics, and Solar Powered Cars, and mini-tracks on 3D printing, and Food Science.

Collaborating Organizations

- **(4-H) New North Citizens' Council** - After school community site
- **(4-H) South End Community Center** - After school community site