



Hidden Figures: The Story of Transforming Parents in to STEM Advocates

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**Center for College
Access and Success**

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



GEAR UP Chicago: At-A-Glance

GEAR UP Chicago is currently serving

- 8784 12th and First year College students (2011)
- 7229 9th and 10th graders (2014)

GEAR UP Chicago just completed serving

- 33 high schools, most of which are persistently low achieving
- A strong partnership with the Chicago Public Schools, 2-and-4 year colleges and universities, community-based organizations and businesses



GEAR UP Chicago: At-A-Glance

Partners

- Northeastern Illinois University (lead institution and fiscal agent)
- The Chicago Public Schools (District 299)
- City Colleges of Chicago (Truman, Wright, Daley and 4 others)
- DePaul University, Loyola University, National Louis University, Roosevelt University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC)
- Community-based organizations and businesses

READY!

Where are the parents?

- Report Card Pick Up
- Open Houses
- Sporting events
- Dropping off and picking up students
- School council/committees
- Other already existing events on school calendar



Where do we start?

- Promote student programs to parents
- Invite parents to orientation/culminating celebration for student program
- Conduct Parent Interest Survey (workshop topics, availability and best way to contact)



READY!

How do we start our relationships?

- Be relatable and welcoming
- Make Personal phone calls
- Make Report Card Pick UP special
- Provide valuable resources - information available in Spanish/English

How do we build trust?

- Communicate constantly and **follow through** – via text, email, & phone calls
- Conduct Parent One on Ones - Individual attention
- Maintain confidentiality
- Keep parents informed



READY!

Team Building Activity

SET!

How do we keep parents engaged?

- Interactive Workshops (Topics include: Transition to High School, Importance of GPA, Freshman On-Track, College Readiness, College Match and Fit and many others)
- Financial Literacy Series - *Partner Heartland Alliance*
- Socio-emotional - *Partner Youth Guidance*
- Parent College Visits and Parent - Student Overnights
- Special Events and Conferences on College Campus (STEMFest, Book Fair, Parent Leadership Conference)
- Parent University
- Parent and Student Panels
- Parent Book Club - Culturally Relevant
- Parent Computer Class
- Family STEM Days/Nights
- STEM Book Club - STEM Workshop



SET!



SET!

Plotting your activities

ACTIVE PARENT ENGAGEMENT AT HOME

- Help with Homework
 - Museums and Library
 - Other
- Parent Advocate Lead
- Walks for Success**
 - Personalized phone calls

ACTIVE PARENT ENGAGEMENT AT SCHOOL

- Interactive Workshops (Topics include: Transition to High School, Importance of GPA, Freshman On-Track, College Readiness, College Match and Fit)
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- Family STEM Days/Nights
- STEM Book Club - STEM Workshop
- Parent Panelist at Conference

NO PARENT ENGAGEMENT AT ALL

NON - ACTIVE AT SCHOOL

- School Assembly
- Open House
- Report Card Pick Up*



SET!



BLAST OFF!

Why is STEM important?



- “It’s relevant”- STEM challenges are designed around opportunities for students to solve real word problems.
- Develops Soft Skills, like collaboration, communication, Inquiry, creativity and time management to name a few.
- Over 1 million job opening will be in STEM fields, with a significant shortage of qualified college graduates to fill the positions.
- 80% of the jobs in the next decade will require the use of technology.- **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**
- STEM jobs produce more security and employees in STEM fields earn more per year than other graduates from other fields.
- IT'S FUN!

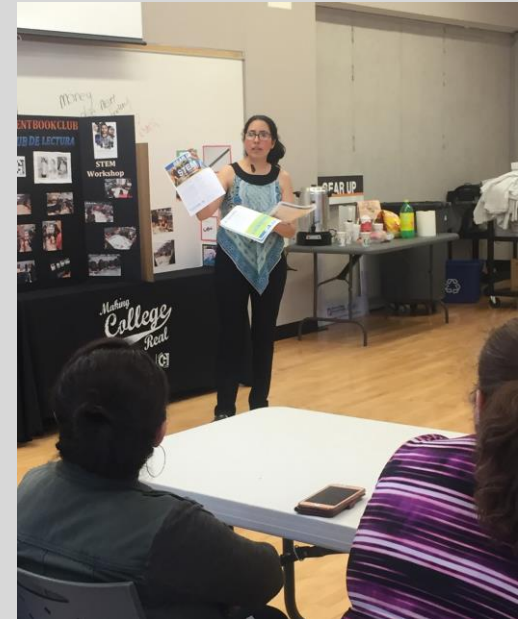
BLAST OFF! Why is STEM important?

Harris interactive conducted a survey on behalf of Microsoft to understand the shortage of STEM students... they concluded.

- 4 out of 5 students decided to go into STEM in high school or earlier
- 61% of male students say that toys and games sparked their interest in STEM
- 68% of STEM female students say that a teacher sparked their interest in STEM.
- **93% of parents believe that STEM education should be a priority in the U.S.** 49% believe it is a priority, 50% of parents want to see their children pursue careers in STEM and quarter of those parents are willing to spend extra money to make their child successful in science and math.



BLAST OFF! Parent STEM Advocates



BLAST OFF! Parent STEM Advocate Video

BLAST OFF!- STOMP ROCKET DESIGN Challenge

Challenge

With your team build a **ROCKET** that you can **LAUNCH** with your foot!

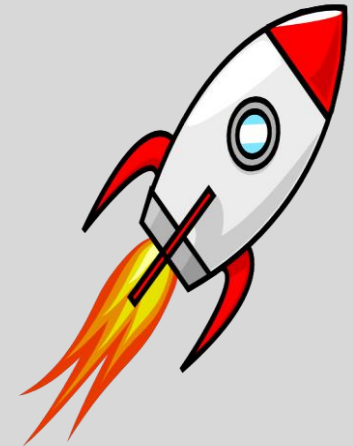
Materials: Paper, tape, straw, (Rocket stomper and measuring tape provided in designated locations in the conference room.)

Think About It...

How are rockets able to launch **HIGH** into the air?

How can you **DESIGN** your rocket to **FLY STRAIGHT** and the **FURTHEST DISTANCE?**

Concept Check: Newton's laws, energy, air resistance, linear motion



THANK YOU



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