

STEM Training for Early Engagement and Readiness “STEERs” students towards academic success!

Middle school students introduced to a culture of learning and engagement for STEM persistence.



Summer 2018

Bullet points about impact

- Mentors** Participants saw their academic year mentors serve as STEM “Curiosity Curators”
- Interest in STEM careers** Students discussed career options opening up to them through camp activities
- Community Partnerships** New partnership with Escuela Vieau School in Milwaukee.
- College Going Culture** For most students, this was the first visit to a college campus



Purpose of study and results

The purpose of STEER is to establish a community of learners that develop and sustain interest in STEM. Students are provided with educational experiences that promote academic success in STEM, while also being supportive of the familial and community responsibilities of students by eliminating the residential commitment as required by traditional summer camps.

STEM exploration activities focused on robotics, mechanical engineering, hydroponics/aquaponics, and sustainable urban gardening. In the classroom, students focused on algebra and geometry, as well as DNA and the life cycle of cells. Finally, Warhawk Experience sessions helped students better understand college life through First Year Experience, Greek life, Study Abroad, Career & Leadership Development, and Housing.

Results from the camp show that within five days, participants showed an average of an 8% increase in content knowledge in math and science. The STEM exploration activities provided prompted one student to note, “I never thought about it before, but I think I would make a good engineer!”

Engaged Scholarship Pilot Grants

The UW-Whitewater School of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education funds Engaged Scholarship Pilot grants to launch projects that partner with regional agencies to address local needs.