

STEM PARTNERSHIP

WDC STEM Partnership, 3600 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020 Phone: 202 577-1708



The Summit

By Joy Majied

2nd Washington, DC STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Summit

Held: Saturday, October 18, 2008

Place: Anne Beers Elementary School
3600 Alabama Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Partnership Chair: Carrie L. Thornhill

Summit Chair: Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry

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Dr. Kerry Joels
Keynote Speaker

SENT A STRONG MESSAGE OF HOPE AND POSSIBILITY

Dr. Kerry Joels sent a strong message of hope and possibility to over 230 students, educators, business, government, parents and community members gathered to kickoff the 2nd Washington DC Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Summit. It was an electrifying time. His theme, "The Road to Real Opportunity" was met with overwhelming reception. He challenged everyone to "Step up and STEM up" and work together to prepare our students in the challenging subject areas of mathematics and science that will prepare them for the jobs of the future. Dr. Joels spoke of the extraordinary opportunity for traditionally under-represented women and minorities to fill potentially high-paying technology jobs in a market where there is a real shortage of talented people. The end results, says Dr. Joels, "would be a remarkable economic and social benefit to our vast pool of underused talent."

WDC STEM Partnership

Chair

Carrie L. Thornhill
Civic Leader

Ambassador

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
Engineer/Faith-based Leader

Principal

Anne Beers Elementary School
Gwendolyn Payton

**NEW Team Liaison/
Educator/Elementary**
Stephanie Harris

Katrinka Agurs
Teacher, Anne Beers ES

Gilda Allen
DDOE

Brenda Atkinson-Willoughby
Georgetown University

LeGrande Baldwin
Educator/Community Leader

Amy Bordeaux
TLRI

Chris Bradshaw
Mark Shelton
Dreaming Out Loud

Charlene Brown-McKenzie
Educator/Higher Education
Georgetown University

Dennis Chestnut
Community Leader
GroundWork Anacostia River

Julie Edmonds
Science Educator

Kerry Joels
TLRI

Deborah Jones
Washington East Foundation

Sheila Milbourne
Parent Partner

Barbara Moses
Vice President, Burrville

Sandra Nitchie
Monarch Effect Foundation

Kathryn Parker
DC STEM Alliance

Danielle Smith
Georgetown University

Antoinette C. Wells
NASA

Marques Wheeler
Georgetown University

Frank Withrow
TLRI

"Our vision is that the District of Columbia is recognized nationally as a Center Of Excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education."

Carrie L. Thornhill

The Summit

The Summit was attended by over 230 students, educators, business, government, parents and community members. Students and their families came out on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning to participate in a series of hands-on workshops, to meet outstanding scientist, engineers, researchers and officials from NASA to explore the possibilities and opportunities in the STEM field. They competed in Math/Science Jeopardy, in a Shuttle Glider and Puzzle Contest and had an opportunity to experience the improved NASA Mission Control Shuttle Demonstration with all the new “bells and whistles.”

The Summit attracted students, teachers and parents from all over the Metropolitan area and included thirty-four (34) public/charter and private schools and two (2) universities. There were over 57 educators, and 34 parents fully engaged in the fifteen (15) workshops and hands-on activities and 14 exhibits.

Javan Clay, 5th Grade Student Ambassador and Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry, STEM Ambassador, proved to be a formidable pair as Co-Mistress and Master of Ceremonies. They open the program with humor, led the pledge to the flag, and moved the program along quickly and effortlessly.

“The workforce demands of tomorrow challenge us to inform, motivate and encourage students, parents and others about the importance of STEM education and its disciplines.”
Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry

We were also honored to have a surprise guest, Mr. Brandon Francisco, a 24-year old airline pilot who stood as an example of the fulfillment of what hard work and determination could do. He offered words of encouragement and wisdom to all as he shared his personal journey.



Dressed in full uniform, he was quite an inspiration.

District IV (Wards 7 and 8) State Board of Education Member, William Lockridge, was also in attendance.

Educators who attended the “TEAMing and Testing” workshop, learned techniques that allow them to work better with smaller groups and to help students learn faster and receive more personalized attention.

Community members who attended the workshop on, “The Journey through Costa Rica,” were spellbound. The pictures and stories shared by the students and staff from the Meyer’s Institute for College Preparatory (MICP)’s journey to Costa Rica and Panama, and the first hand experience of scientific skills developed in their classroom was awe-inspiring.

The Exhibit Hall was full of information and resources to stimulate interest and support STEM disciplines. There was plenty of information on “green” living, and safety and cost saving tips from the many agencies and organizations represented.
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Participant Reflections

Overall Summit:

Overall Summit Evaluations were not turned in.

Workshops:

Participants were asked to, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest rate the following.

TLRI - TEAMING and Teaching

Overall workshop	5.0
Space	4.8
Workshop Presenter	5.0
Content	4.8
Handouts	5.0

Enjoyed most: examples; deliverance of information; the concept; the handout; everything! Thanks for renewing my spirit; sharing information

Enjoyed least: space was cold; repeat of past

MICP-Journey through Costa Rica and Panama

Overall Workshop	4.8
Space	4.4
Workshop Presenter(s)	4.8
Content	4.9
Handouts	4.2

Enjoyed most: students presentation; slide show presentation; seeing the pictures; the students telling their own stories and what they learned and how much fun they had; reflecting and remembering about Costa Rica; camaraderie of the young people and staff; sharing my experience.

Enjoyed least: everything was great!; nothing; it was all good; enjoyed everything; good job

NASA - Science and Education Resources

Overall Workshop	4.5
Space	4.5
Workshop Presenter	4.5
Content	5.0
Handouts	5.0

Enjoyed most: the fact that I am able to use info obtained to really teach, i.e. even got website to obtain more information; the handouts

NASA - Connecting with Cosmic Elements

Overall Workshop	4.8
Space	4.8
Workshop Presenter	4.8
Content	4.6
Handouts	4.6

Enjoyed most: interactive hands-on experiments And informative charts; learning games; he told us stuff we didn't know; rich description of elements.

The Summit (continued from page 3)

The Summit concluded with a "Call to Action", by Chair Carrie L. Thornhill. She outlined a four-point plan of action: expand the partnership, become more broadly recognized as a coalition enhancing both the quantity and quality of STEM education in the District of Columbia, expand Team Training and raise additional funds to support the Partnership and Team Training.

And lastly, the Partnership presented awards and prizes to students, parents, educators and schools for their response and support of the Summit and STEM. Anne Beers received the Grand Prize for inviting and turning out the largest team of students, parents/family, educators and friends in attendance - 76.

Special Thanks To!

...The staff and extraordinary maintenance team at Anne Beers who endured long hours, our numerous requests, and last minute needs

...Anne Beers Youth Ambassadors

...Georgetown University who always responded in the affirmative and was 100% hands-on

All of your cooperation and attention to detail was truly appreciated.

Recommendations:

- Start planning earlier
- Expand outreach
- More advanced planning for sponsors/exhibits/advertisers
- A separate media outreach effort
- Guides to assist in traffic flow in between workshops and assure all workshops are well attended
- Better meeting time management
- A greater volunteer pool to draw from
- Disappointed that Chancellor and Mayor did not attend
- See more students-led sessions

