

2014 STEAM Conference Summary

Chicago May 3, 2014---The fourth annual STEAM Conference, the product of the collaboration between the Upward Bound Science and Math program at Northeastern Illinois University and the Scientists for Tomorrow program at the Department of Science and Mathematics – Columbia College Chicago, has once again proven to be a success!!! This year more than 700 students and parents participated in the event, attending a variety of more than 40 different hands-on STEAM workshops.

The conference is designed to facilitate middle schools and high schools students from the Chicago area to attend and also be able to present workshops to other teens fostering Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

The STEAM Conference was held at Northeastern Illinois University Campus on 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue. All participants were welcomed at the Student Union building where registration, opening and closing ceremonies and parent workshops took place.

Twelve Scientists for Tomorrow's community partners sites presented several workshops at the conference. Each community partner presented one of these workshops: Go Go Gadget Light, Circuit Monster, 3, 2, 1 Balloon Powered Cart, Magic Brain, LED Multi Color Lights, Fruity DNA, Mouse trap Cars, Play-Doh Squishy Circuits, The Music of Wind-Wind Chime Making, Sound with the Wind-Wind Chime Making and Art Bot. For a large description of the workshops visit the Conference Workshop Sessions Description at the <http://steamconferences.blogspot.com>

In the opening ceremony, participants and presenters were welcomed by Aaron Cortes and Marcelo Caplan, co-chairs of the STEAM Conference, followed by an opening introduction led by the keynote speaker Georgette Yakman, founding researcher and developer of STEAM, a framework for Teaching Across the Disciplines, and Dr. Graig Wilson Ph.D, Senior Outreach Associate, DMSE, TAMU & Director for the USDA/HSINP Future Scientists program.

After the opening ceremony, the participants, parents, teachers and educators moved through different buildings on campus to their selected workshop. Between the most popular sessions we can find the Art Bot, Squishy Circuits, I am DJ and the Robot-bug. All the workshops were well attended, giving the possibility to the young instructors to communicate what they learned in our Out of School Time (OST) programs to a large variety of teens.

Between the sessions all the presenters have lunch provided by the conference, using this opportunity to share their experiences as “presenters” between their peers from other sites and communities. The cafeteria was filled with parents and students; showing off the product they have built in the workshops.

After lunch, all the participants departed from the cafeteria to the second round of activities. Other workshops includes *The Mysterious Life of Sharks*, presented by author, photographer, consultant and adjunct professor at Columbia College Chicago, Michele Hoffman-Trotter, participants learned about the anatomy of a shark as they dissected one.

At the closing ceremony all the participants and presenters were acknowledge by the co-chairs of the event. The conference gathered more than 700 participants and presenters at the event. Next year's STEAM conference will be on May 2, 2015. The location will be announced.



STEAM Conference May 3, 2014---Auditorium



The Junior Research Scientists with Marcelo Caplan and Evelyn Oropeza



Both sisters and students from the UNO Charter School Network-Veterans Memorial Campus at the rocket workshop.



Aaron Cortes and Marcelo Caplan, co-chairs of the STEAM Conference.



Keynote speaker Georgette Yakman



Erie House presenting the Mouse trap workshop



Dr. Graig Wilson Ph.D



Ashley Conroy with Vanessa Gutierrez, Pathway Project Field Site Coordinator from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Dissecting a Shark in the *The Mysterious Life of Sharks*, workshop presented by author, photographer, consultant and adjunct professor at Columbia College Chicago, Michele Hoffman-Trotter.

Marcelo Caplan introducing the raffle prizes



Lunch Time!!!



Instructor Ivan Chavez with his students from Dawes Elementary and Durkin Park Elementary whom presented the Monochord Workshop.



Students at Work!!!