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“Summer of Science” at Six Southeastern Massachusetts Colleges and Universities

Rather than hanging out in the basement playing video games, what if kids could spend the summer actually designing games? Or learning to become a pilot, or solving marine-biology mysteries, or engineering rockets, or becoming a leader in environmental sustainability?

The six CONNECT public colleges and universities--Bridgewater State University, Bristol, Cape Cod, and Massasoit Community Colleges, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth—invite young people onto their campuses to enjoy hands-on science, technology, and engineering experiences. In its second year, the “Summer of Science” is meant to inspire enthusiasm for invention and exploration and encourage young people to consider entering a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) field.

Massasoit Community College president Dr. Charles Wall states, “We know that we must help excite students while they are in high school, in fact even in middle school, long before they head to our college campuses if we are to engage them in lives and careers of science and math.” Massasoit joined the other five institutions with a new program this year. Children participating in the “Bees, Bakugans, and Bioengineering” camp will learn about agriculture and solve design challenges using creativity, teamwork, and science.

Programming is different at each campus. Marine Science is the focus at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and at Bridgewater’s Whale of a Mystery program. The environment takes the spotlight at the UMass Dartmouth and Cape Cod Community College camps. Cape Cod’s program also incorporates aerospace engineering—as does BSU’s ACE Aviation Camp. Students at Bristol’s Kids College can enroll in a range of classes similar to those college students take, from game design and digital photography to robotics and computer programming.

States Dr. Jean MacCormack, Chancellor of UMass Dartmouth, “The six CONNECT institutions are offering a range of programs and options so that no matter what their interests or town of residence, all kids can experience a Summer of Science.”

All programs have need-based scholarships available. More information and links to the individual programs are available on the CONNECT website: www.connectsemass.org/summerofscience.

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