

WHO **The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, in Missouri, was awarded a \$7000 Community Action Grant.**

WHAT Seventy Sixth and Seventh Grade students worked with 21 mentors to complete 21 Science projects in 6 short weeks.

WHEN January, 2009, through April, 2009

WHERE Mentors worked with girls and boys in the Wellston, MO, Bishop Middle School.

WHY The school district was taken over in 2005 by the state of Missouri mainly for poor academic performance. One hundred percent of the staff and students are African-American. Nearly all the students eat a free breakfast and lunch at school.

The Science interaction allowed the students to experience a hands-on STEM activity and helped us enhance equity for women and girls, *and boys*, through advocacy, education and research.

HOW Informational meetings explained the Each One Teach One grant and persuaded individuals to become mentors.

Two workshops taught students, teachers and mentors the Scientific Method and the steps for completing a successful Science project.

Students, teachers and mentors went to the St. Louis Science Center to explore many kinds of Science study and to consider different Science topics.

Small groups of 1 to 5 students worked with mentors to pick a subject to investigate; design experiments; analyze the data and prepare the display boards.

Students recorded their Science activity in journals and mentors kept a daily log.

Surveys and questionnaires measured the improvement in Science attitude and performance as the project progressed. Mentor surveys recorded the participation of girls in all stages of the work.

A Science Celebration ended the project. Students received a booklet with a picture of their group, a certificate of Science Achievement and a Science medal. Cookies and punch were enjoyed by all.

The Branch purchased a \$1000 computer system, \$600 worth of Science Reference books and \$300 worth of Science equipment for student use in the Science classroom.

START YOUR OWN STEM PROJECT, CONTACT US FOR HELP:

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