



The Boston Science Partnership

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate Release

CONTACT

Jennifer Dorsen

617-291-4892

Jennifer.dorsen@umb.edu

Senior Year Starts Today for 350 Boston Science Students

June 22, 2009 - - Boston, MA. Senior year starts in June for 350 Boston Public School seniors. Rather than sneaking off to the beach or logging hours in a summer job, they will spend two weeks of their summer at Bridge to AP Science, learning in the lab. They are Advanced Placement science students, and they mean business.

While three years ago, only a few Boston schools offered advanced science, the labs are now overflowing. This program of the Boston Science Partnership has expanded access and allowed hundreds of kids to prepare for careers in science. In order to compete with suburban schools, the Boston schools start in June, ensuring that the kids have extra time to master material that will allow them to earn college credit while in high school.

While many students are enjoying New England summer life, these students from 17 high schools in Boston will be getting a jump on their senior year. By spending five intensive days on the campus of one of three university partners – and returning in August for another four days – these students are setting themselves up for success in advanced chemistry, biology and physics.

Pam Pelletier, the Senior Program Director for Science in the Boston Public Schools, explains the success: “The Bridge program has been terrific for our kids. They love the chance to come to the university settings and accelerate their studies. Our numbers reflect their effort and the benefits of the partnership.”

In the past four years the enrollment in advanced science has mushroomed, from 371 to 781. Currently 22 of the 33 high schools in Boston have an intensive, advanced course, and enrollments are growing. Furthermore, through supports like the AP Bridge program, the students get the time they need to do well – very well. Scores are also up. And with the AP science program, a strong score can mean impressing an admissions officer and college credit.

These students are not only starting senior year in June, they are starting college.



Partner Information

BPS The Boston Public Schools serves 14,759 students in grades 6-8 and 18,305 students in grades 9-12. There are 442 full and part-time science teachers across the district.

BSP These accomplishments are the result of the Boston Science Partnership, a city-wide project bringing together the Boston Public Schools, UMass Boston, Northeastern University, Harvard Medical School, the community colleges and others to support high achievement in the district. The Partnership was founded in 2004 with a \$12.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The goals of the Partnership are to raise student achievement in the sciences; increase the number of students taking and succeeding in higher-level science courses, and to improve teaching in both the BPS and at the universities.

The College Board The AP exams are administered by the College Board. The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the association is composed of more than 5,400 schools, colleges, universities, and other educational organizations. Each year, the College Board serves seven million students and their parents, 23,000 high schools, and 3,500 colleges through major programs and services in college admissions, guidance, assessment, financial aid, enrollment, and teaching and learning. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®). The College Board is committed to the principles of excellence and equity, and that commitment is embodied in all of its programs, services, activities, and concerns.

For more information, contact

Jennifer Dorsen, Project Director

C: 617-291-4829

O: 617-287-7516

Email: Jennifer.dorsen@umb.edu

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