

FOSTERING INTEREST IN STEM & HIGHER EDUCATION IN UNDERREPRESENTED MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

PSYCH & BRAIN SCIENCES DEPT
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

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Original plan:

- Bring/return middle school students to/from UD via rented bus
- Hold presentations, workshops, and exercises in ISE Lab
- Provide students lunch
- Give campus tour

Updated plan:

- Have graduate student team go out to schools instead. Why?
 - Bus rental expense extremely high
 - UD ISE Lab reservations seemed highly improbable/unsuitable times
 - UD catering hard to coordinate, unsure of precise head count
- Proceed with presentations, workshops, and exercises as originally planned
- Working with BN professor Dr. Eric Roth to present brain samples (schools permitting)
 - Waiting on response for the go ahead from Baltimore lab to pick up samples

Current status:

- Interested schools/organizations waiting to hear back from to finalize dates:
 - Las Americas Aspira Academy
 - Kingswood Community Center in Wilmington
- Emailed schools but received no response:
 - Bayard Middle School
 - Teach for America DE
- Other schools for potential contact:
 - Parkway Academy North
 - Douglas Alternative
 - McCullough Middle school
- Next week: meet with Dr. Chad Forbes is highly involved in local STEM outreach
- 10/16-10/21: Meet with individuals at Society for Neuroscience conference in Chicago who coordinate and support (materials & resources) outside events for Brain Awareness Week whose mission coincides with ours – to get young students excited and interested in science

Future directions/goals for long-term sustainability

- Met with an engineering professor at UD, Dr. Ismat Shah, who is interested in the program and would like to be involved for broader STEM field expansion
- Met with a physics doctoral student, Cesar Chavez, who said he is also interested in expansion
- Meet with Amy Trauth-Nare (Assoc Dir. Sci Ed., DE Ctr for Teacher Ed) to create website