



# THE DISCOVERY CENTER

A classroom without walls for a future without prejudice

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November 4, 2013

Petit Family Foundation  
PO Box 310  
Plainville, CT 06062

Dear Petit Family Foundation,

Please find enclosed a grant report detailing two major science learning experiences you brought to 55 seventh grade girls from Greater Hartford.

The enclosed materials and student writings reflect how your donation planted seeds of science inspiration in their hearts and minds. We hope you enjoy reading their genuine expressions of appreciation in the enclosed letters.

It was our hope to honor your desire "to help educate young people, especially those with interests in science." Many of these young women would not be exposed to places like Westminster School or Winding Trails without generous gifts like yours. Over half of the girls are from the inner city where their exposure to other forums for learning is limited.

Through the donations of foundations, board members, and individuals we have been honored to collaborate with area organizations to provide many students a new perspective on learning. Thank you for being a part of this academic effort.

We are so grateful for your investment with us. Thank you so very much and we hope to work with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Eunice Bragg  
Interim Executive Director

790 Farmington Ave. - Suite 4A - Farmington, CT 06032

Tel: 860-284-9489 Fax: 860-284-9637

[www.discoveringdiversity.com](http://www.discoveringdiversity.com)



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## MISSION

TO SHAPE POSITIVE ATTITUDES ABOUT RACE AND DIFFERENCES, REDUCE ISOLATION BETWEEN URBAN AND SUBURBAN SCHOOLS, AND IMPROVE MATH, SCIENCE, AND LANGUAGE ARTS SKILLS.



## DIVERSITY ACADEMY (SERVING 200 STUDENTS ANNUALLY)

- Engaging 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders from two participating schools
- Offering unique experiences to inspire student leadership
- Collaborating with community organizations



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## Outcome Achieved

### Increased interest and understanding of science

The following pictures and student feedback reflect how the participating 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls increased their understanding and appreciation for science through the experiential approach to learning through the Diversity Academy program.

**DIVERSITY**

**Academy**

*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

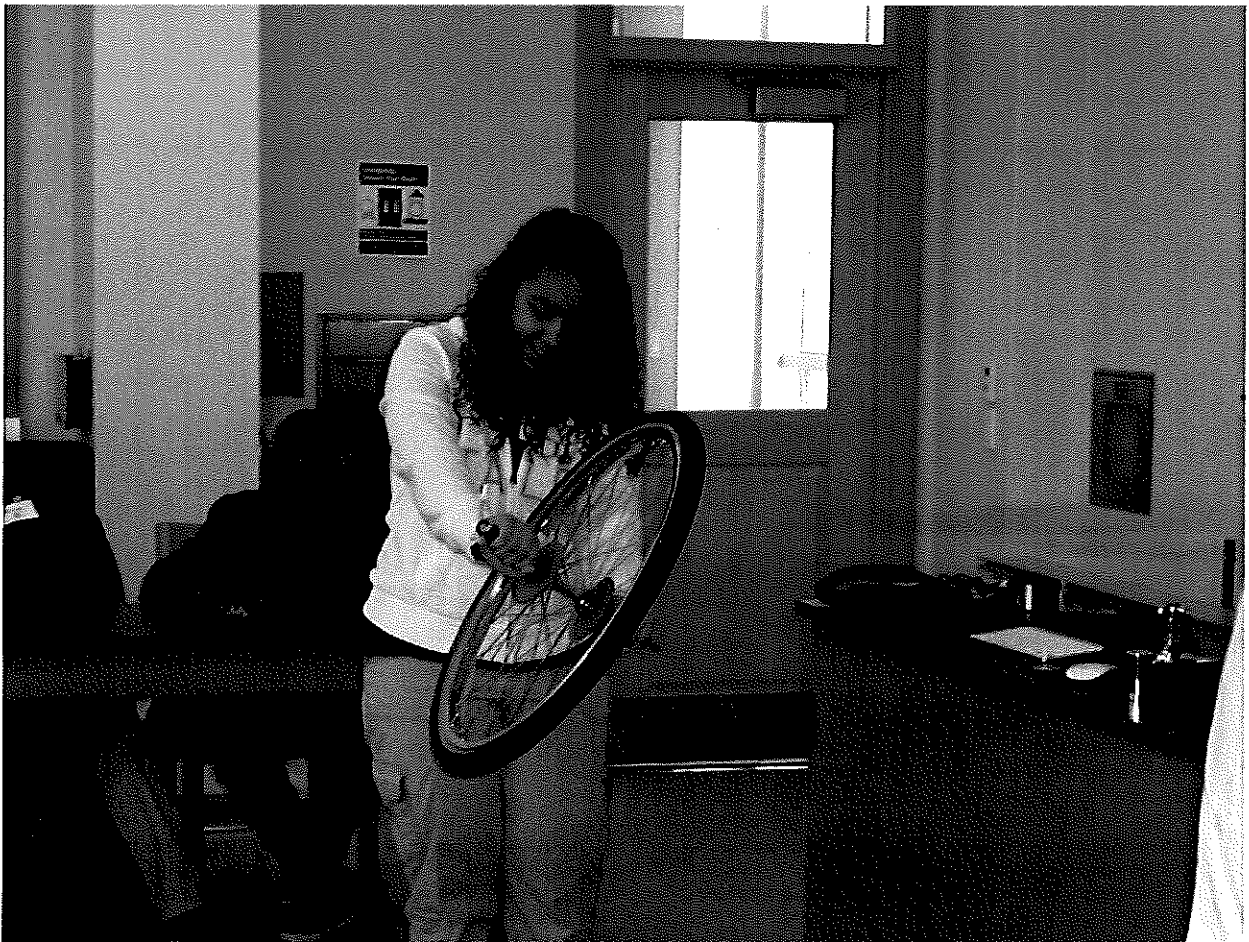
*Pilot Program*

Westminster Science Collaborative

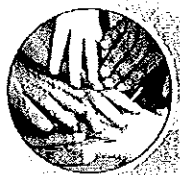
Westminster School: Simsbury, CT

Students were led through a series of interactive, inquiry-based science labs.

Topics included: rhythm and beat frequency, motion graphing, rotational mechanics, lasers and inertia.



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DIVERSITY

Academy

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pilot Program

Name (optional): Alicia Adams

School: Loan Webster

Please provide your responses to the following questions. Your feedback is important to us as we seek to make the program better.

Please describe your experience at the Diversity Academy program:

My experience at the Diversity Academy was quite enjoyable. I liked how the activities were all hands-on projects. Also, I learned things that I have heard about but never knew what they actually meant. For example, I heard about frequency, but I didn't know what it meant before.

Thinking about the various labs you experienced at the Westminster Science Collaborative (*Sounds & Beat Frequency, Motion Detector, Scientific Mysteries*) please provide some new information that you learned?

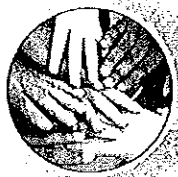
In the various labs, I learned what inertia was during Scientific Mysteries. During the motion detector lab, I partially learned about frequency and sound waves, but in Beat Frequency I completely understood what frequency, sound waves, and I learned what a crest was.

What is something valuable you learned and why is it important to you?

Something valuable that I learned was the law of inertia. This was important to me because it pretty much answers most of my questions on motion. Also, the law of inertia is valuable to me because I already knew what it was, but the lab explained so much more about it, and I didn't know some of the facts.

How do you expect your involvement in the Diversity Academy program to affect your learning experience?

My involvement in the Diversity Academy program would affect my learning experience by helping me ask all the questions I have and to be an "adventurer".



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7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pilot Program

Name (optional): Chaniya Jackson School: Noah Webster

Please provide your responses to the following questions. Your feedback is important to us as we seek to make the program better.

Please describe your experience at the Diversity Academy program:

I enjoyed myself very much at the Diversity Academy program. I learned a lot of things about science that I hadn't known before.

Thinking about the various labs you experienced at the Westminster Science Collaborative

(Sounds & Beat Frequency, Motion Detector, Scientific Mysteries) please provide some new

information that you learned? I learned, in Sounds & Beat Frequency, that sound can move in different directions. I learned, in Motion

Detector, that when you move back on a motion detector it goes back and when you go forward, it goes down. I also learned that in Scientific Mysteries, putting your arms in while spinning makes you go faster.

What is something valuable you learned and why is it important to you?

Something valuable that I learned in school was diversity.

How do you expect your involvement in the Diversity Academy program to affect your learning experience?



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7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pilot Program

Name (optional): Kendall Cannon

School: Noah Webster

Please provide your responses to the following questions. Your feedback is important to us as we seek to make the program better.

Please describe your experience at the Diversity Academy program:

My experience at the Diversity Academy Program was fun. We went to Westminster School. We were assigned groups and went on one of the labs. Then we ate lunch like at a restaurant. Then we did two more then we left.

Thinking about the various labs you experienced at the Westminster Science Collaborative (Sounds & Beat Frequency, Motion Detector, Scientific Mysteries) please provide some new information that you learned?

Some things we learned about sound: beat frequency is how to find the wavelength. With the motion detector we tried to create what was already there. In Scientific Mysteries we learned about a lot of inertia and we was on a rotator.

What is something valuable you learned and why is it important to you?

Something valuable I learned was about inertia. They told us why when you are moving it wants to move, at rest it's resting, and about how you go faster if you put in your arms.

How do you expect your involvement in the Diversity Academy program to affect your learning experience?

I think the involvement in the Diversity Academy Program affect my learning experience. I think we learned more there than in school. So I will already know it when it comes up.





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7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Pilot Program

Name (optional): Taliyah Santiago School: Noah Webster

Please provide your responses to the following questions. Your feedback is important to us as we seek to make the program better.

Please describe your experience at the Diversity Academy program:

My experience at the Diversity Academy program was fun, educational, and delightful. I honestly enjoyed all the activities that were scheduled for us. I do feel that I left out of Westminster learning a lot that I didn't know.

Thinking about the various labs you experienced at the Westminster Science Collaborative (Sounds & Beat Frequency, Motion Detector, Scientific Mysteries) please provide some new information that you learned?

I learned a lot of information from all the labs we did. Some information I learned is inertia. Objects at motion stay in motion, objects at rest stay at rest. Another fact I learned is lighting is full of negative charges.

What is something valuable you learned and why is it important to you?

Something valuable I learned is

How do you expect your involvement in the Diversity Academy program to affect your learning experience?

**DIVERSITY**

**Academy**

*7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade*

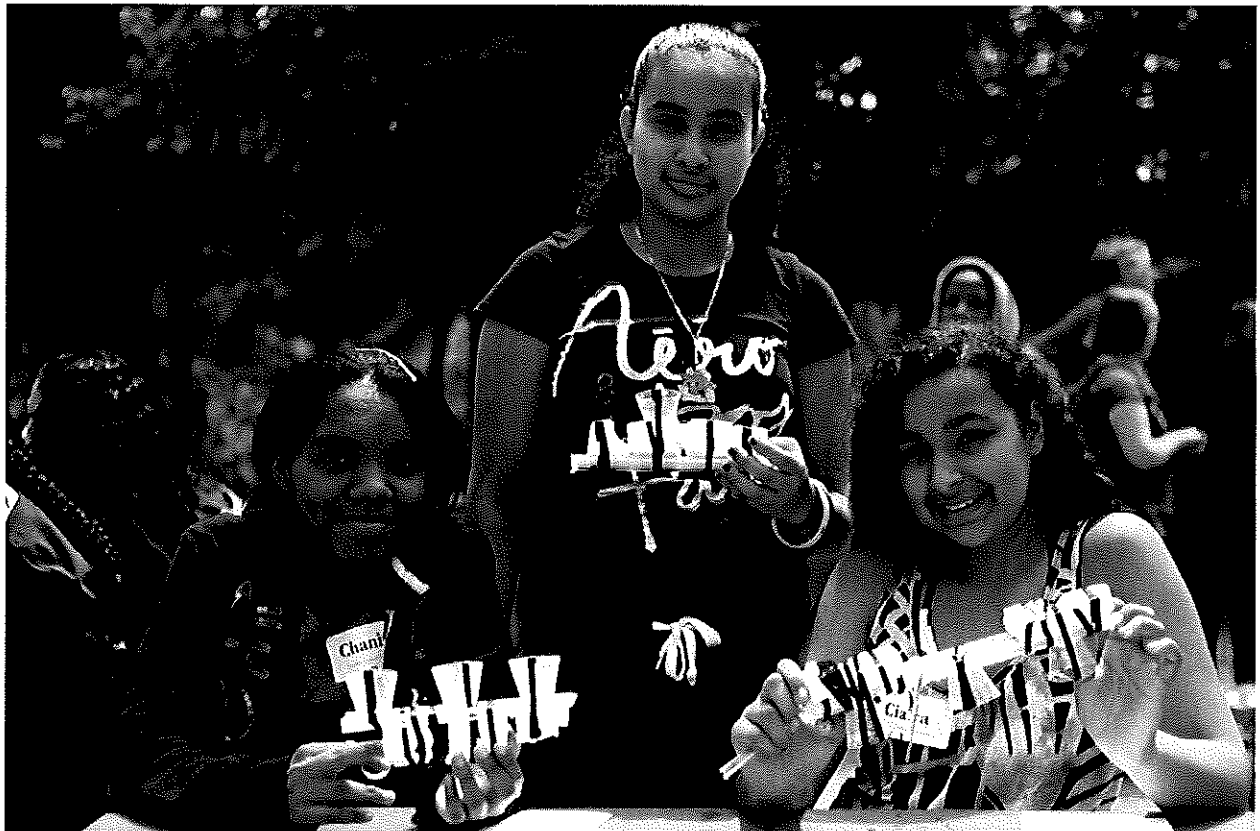
*Pilot Program*

## Engineering Raft-Building Competition

Winding Trails: Farmington, CT

Students worked together in teams to design and construct a raft that could float 4-6 people by using knowledge gained through a series of hands-on, inquiry based activities.

Scientific Principles: buoyancy, Archimedes Principle, raft stability, model building, and propulsion.



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May 30, 2013

Dear Jason,

I really enjoyed my time here at the Discovery Academy Diversity Program. We did so many different activities. I met people from Mary Hogher and I have new friends. Ciara, Destiny, Alexis, Mariany, Amari are my friends. I liked how we first met them. They were also very respectful when I first met them. We met when we were in the Cultural Diversity trip at the Library. I also liked all climbing trails when we worked together to build a raft. So we really bonded as a team group. I think we should be together with them next year at Everytrip. I think we work well together. It's good to learn about people's backgrounds. We came as a group and go tasks.

My favorite trip was winding trails. We learned different objectives to help us when we built the raft. We learned how it needs to be stable. The weight has to be the same at each time. We had 40 minutes to make a raft. They had 4 barrels, string, tape and wood. Then we had to get it across the lake, to an island to get the flag, then back. My raft lasted about 10 minutes then it broke apart, so we had to swim the rest of the way.

So while in the Discovery Center's Diversity Academy, we really bonded. As I said, I enjoyed my time. I think you did an excellent job. These trips were amazing. I can't wait to see what you planned. Thanks you to your excellent work you and the others did to plan it.

Sincerely,  
Khalil B. Cannon

5/30/13

Dear Jason,

Thank you for all the field trips! I had so much fun! I enjoyed all the field trips, especially when we met people from Mary Hooker. I met various people such as, Destiny, Mariany, Mikaila, Giovanni, Calvin, Kennan, Amari, (Derek, Jaleesa, Jess, Robb, Mark) (counselors) Henry, and many more. I enjoyed being with them, talking with them, and just getting along. I really liked when we met them, and we got to learn a lot about each other. Something I would like to do again would be building the rafts but with only one person and compete (not having teams.) I enjoyed working with the instructor Derek, he let me answer questions, and let me be confident about my answers, and give my answers a try. To improve for next year we should do more trips so that on the last day we take some more time to say goodbye to each other because I didn't say goodbye to all my friends. Next year I'm hoping to see Mary Hooker again! For field trips next year we should do boys vs. girls in jump rope or going to the park, or even building a raft again. I would like to see some of my ideas and others next year for the Diversity Academy. I'm grateful to experience all these trips, on a scale of 1-100 I'm 1 million percent grateful. I really got along with Mary Hooker's students. I'm going to see some of them during the summer. Thank you again for everything!

Sincerely,  
Amon's Valle