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Advancing the S.T.A.R. Academies at Lehigh University

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Abstract

The S.T.A.R. Academies at Lehigh University are comprehensive academic initiatives divided into three program components: 1) S.T.A.R. Academy, 2) Jr. S.T.A.R. Academy and 3) Summer Math, Science & Technology Camp. The Academies work with 29 local schools from the Greater Lehigh Valley in a common mission to prepare for success economically and academically disadvantaged students who are at risk of failing - creating, in other words, Students That Are Ready (S.T.A.R.). Students who come to S.T.A.R. are typically lacking the self-esteem, internal motivation, or parental support to prosper academically. S.T.A.R. Academies instill in these students the determination to succeed and reinforce the vital skills they need to excel in school, graduate, and go on to higher education. These students come from all racial and ethnic backgrounds, and without intervention, might fail to enter the college-preparation pipeline or drop out of high school altogether. Partner companies include Agere Systems, Inc., Verizon, the Martin Cohen Family Foundation and the Mr. & Mrs. Hap Wagner Family Foundation, all of which are based in Pennsylvania.