

COP-035

S.T.A.R. Academies – Academic Program in Math, Science, Engineering and Business for students in grades 4-12 (Academic Year and Summer Components)

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Industry Participants

Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.; Agere Systems, Inc.; The Air Products Foundation; Binney & Smith, Inc.; Campus Pizza; General Motors; Insaco, Inc.; Just Born, Inc.; Keystone Nazareth Bank; Morning Call; Strategic Minerals, Inc.; Suntex International; Wood Company; Xerox Corporation Foundation; Verizon.

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 twenty-nine (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. They 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.

S.T.A.R. Academies are organized and operated by Lehigh University staff, faculty, and student volunteers. S.T.A.R. students are brought to campus on Saturdays during the school year, and are matched one-on-one with their own tutor and mentor. Students learn reading, writing, communication, critical thinking, science, math, business, arts, technology, and general study skills, and participate in experiential opportunities like field trips and collaborative projects. Our request to the PITA is for a grant of \$53,097 to support the S.T.A.R. Academies for 2004-2005, providing needed funding for participation costs, books and supplies, partial compensation for external instructors as

needed, career assessment tools, academic excellence awards, and related expenses (please refer to the attached budget for details). PITA's support will be pivotal in increasing the number of low-income and underrepresented minority high school graduates in the region, thereby enhancing the pipeline of disadvantaged students to higher education and increasing the pool of skilled graduates in the science and technology professions.