



Preparing African American Males for Energy and Education

6/19-23, 6/26-6/30

Audience

Two separate sessions throughout the summer were attended by 91 total participants. The participants were all African American males from the Detroit area. Students ranged from high school juniors to high school seniors and were selected based on GPA, recommendation letters from math or science teachers, successful interview, ability to participate in the entire 18 month program, and completed applications.

Funding

Participants were fully sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Consumers Energy and DAPCEP.

Objectives

The program goals are to:

- Spark the participant's interest in renewable energy technology through hands-on activities, short lectures and lab visits
- Generate an interest in engineering disciplines
- Provide students with skills and knowledge in the industry
- Develop teamwork and problem-solving skills
- Provide participants with an authentic university environment and experience

Description

The preparing African American Males for Energy and Education program seeks to address the low participation rates of African American males in the Power Generation and Renewable Energy (PG&RE) industries. Intended for rising high school juniors and seniors. Students explored the topics of renewable energy systems, including solar, wind, bioenergy and energy scavenging through hands-on activities, short lectures by MSU professors and graduate students, lab and engineering research facility tours and presentations. Presentations by the Honors College, and Office of Admissions were also included. The program include approximately 40 intentional contact hours each session for educational activities, plus the evenings recreational activities.



Outcomes

Participants completed a post-evaluation and provided the below feedback on several aspects of the program, including academic sessions, college readiness, staff, social activities, and more.

- After participation, 58.7% indicated their interest in pursuing engineering.
- 61.95% mentioned that the program helped them more clearly identify their personal interest toward engineering
- The majority of participants agreed that both College of Engineering faculty and the mentors were helpful and easy to approach, with specific praise given to student mentors.

Participant testimonials:

- "The best part of the PAAMEE program was the exclusive exposure to engineering and the hands-on work that is available"
- "The mentors, brotherhood and overall experience was the best part of the program"
- Getting to get the feel of what college is like was the best part of the program"
- "Transparent solar panel presentation was the best part of the program"

Additional Significant Information

PAAMEE staff includes personnel from the Office of Recruitment & K-12 Outreach, professors from different departments, graduate and undergraduate student mentors. The engineering sessions provide a great opportunity for prospective students to explore engineering at MSU and connect with faculty. Consumer Energy was also a partner in this program and their engineers and other personnel provided significant contributions that enriched the program as a whole.

Contact Information

Luis Donado

Assistant Director for Recruitment & K-12 Outreach,
Summer Program Coordinator
428 S. Shaw Ln, Room 3200 Engineering Building
East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: 517-353-7282
Email: donadoto@egr.msu.edu

