



The Hendrix Noyce STEM Teacher Education in the Arkansas Delta (N-STEAD) program aims to prepare high-achieving Hendrix College science and mathematics students to become effective teachers. The program is funded by a \$1.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation and consists of two programs: an Intern program for freshman and sophomore students and a Scholar program for junior, senior, and post-baccalaureate students.

Students in the Intern program can test drive a career in teaching by helping local youth learn about the wonders of science at the *Ridin' Dirty with Science* summer camp.

Students in the Scholar program not only train to become licensed science and mathematics teachers but they also work to become teacher leaders as part of the national community of Noyce Scholars.

Dr. James Jennings

We are saddened to announce that Dr. James Jennings passed away on October 27, 2015. He was an integral part of our N-STEAD team, responsible for teaching our scholars about the students and communities in which they would teach.



His career in education spanned almost four decades in which he was a teacher, an administrator, and finally a teacher educator. He dedicated his life to reducing educational inequities in the Arkansas Delta; a place where his mother was a 5th grade teacher for 37 years. He designed the Above the Line project in 2007 and has worked through it to provide opportunities for educational excellence to low achieving students in high-poverty areas.

As his former student Kathryn Armstrong said "He set the example for what an educator should be and how they should act. I am grateful for his commitment to education and to putting students first."

Winter 2016 Newsletter

Highlights from Summer 2015

By Susan Ablondi, Program Manager



Our interns were very busy this summer learning about informal science education and about the Arkansas Delta. Their first trip of the summer was to visit Helena/West Helena, AR. They toured the Delta Cultural Museum, attended the graduation ceremony for KIPP Delta High School and toured KIPP Delta. There they had the opportunity to meet with



Mr. Nathan Whitfield, a teacher from the Delta who went to Harvard and returned to the Delta to teach. He is no doubt an inspiration to his students and to our interns.

The next week the interns went to the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock to meet with Hendrix Alum and Museum Program Director, Thomas Lipham. He worked with them on their lesson plans for *Ridin' Dirty with Science* camp. Also, while there they had the opportunity to meet Kevin Delaney, Director of Visitor Experience and frequent guest of Jimmy Fallon's *Tonight Show*.



In June, the interns were busy interacting with kids, their favorite part of the intern experience. They went on a trip to McGehee, AR and worked with students at the McGehee Desha Alumni Community Center. They



taught the kids about electricity, magnetism, and how to make slime (while learning about polymers). This also gave them a chance to "test drive" their lessons before the week-long *Ridin' Dirty with Science* camp.

Ridin' Dirty with Science camp is the culminating experience of every Hendrix N-STEAD



intern. The week long science camp allows the interns to put into practice all the things they have learned about teaching and sci-

ence, to have fun, and to promote science to the Conway Boy's and Girl's Club members.

Where Are They Now?

Our first two scholars are now novice teachers. Kevin Spatz and M. Vincent Gammill are both first year science teachers at Little Rock Central High School. Kevin is teaching Biology and Vincent, Physical Science. Now they are both part of the Induction phase of the Wong (2004) notes that induction is *"A system-wide, coherent, comprehensive training and support process that continues 2-3 years and then seamlessly becomes part of the lifelong professional development ... to keep new teachers teaching and improving toward increasing their effectiveness."*

During their first two years of teaching Kevin and Vincent will receive support from both Hendrix College education professors and science professors. In addition, this summer they will attend a professional development retreat at

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