

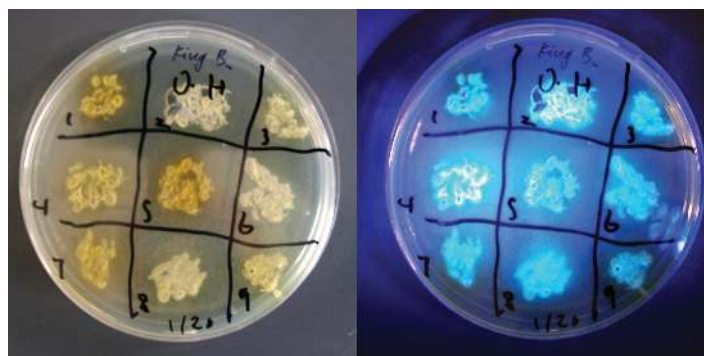
Success and Impact of STEM Program: Training

By Marc Baum, Oak Crest Institute of Science | Photos by Paul Webster



As we approach the middle of the year, we want to share with you the amazing success of one of our programs. We recently hosted a group of community college students who were participating in an extramural learning program called "Pathways to STEM" (a National Science Foundation project). The program offered students a view of the variety of ways STEM degrees can be used to build a career. At Oak Crest, they spent six weeks in the laboratory learning important biotechnology skills and working on a fascinating project. Their task was to find bacteria in soil samples from the Huntington Gardens, and we're thrilled to say that they succeeded!

Throughout the program, these students gained experience in preparing sterile materials, performing biochemical tests, and using microscopes to identify different types of bacteria.



Bacteria on an agar plate isolated from soil under regular and ultra-violet light.

They encountered some challenges along the way, but their hard work paid off when they discovered bacteria that glowed under ultraviolet light and even some that formed crystals!

Not only did these students gain scientific experience, they also improved their communication skills by introducing themselves



Oak Crest Institute of Science (Oak Crest) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to teach and conduct cutting-edge science research. The institute provides an experience-giving role in education, where students work on authentic, funded research projects and develop a sense of belonging to the STEM community.

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Tomorrow's Scientists

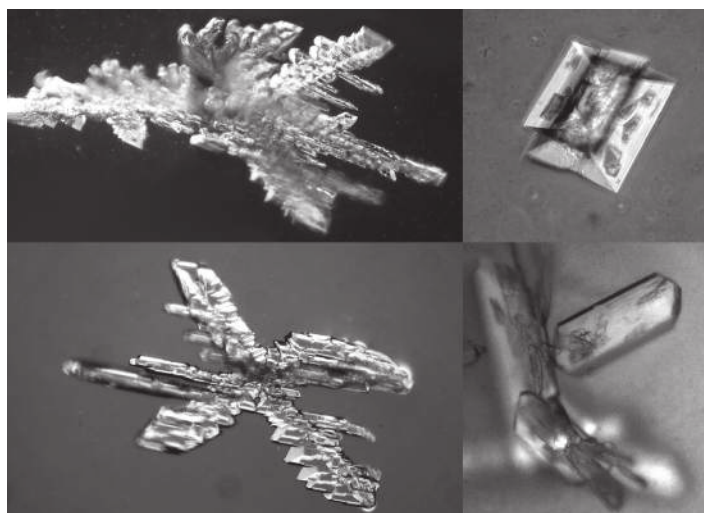


to visitors in the lab and presenting the results of their work. We would like to thank Jeanette DePatie, (Lead Writer/Analyst, Propellerhead-inc.com) who gave her time to coach the students on presentation skills. These experiences will undoubtedly benefit the students in their future careers.

We're incredibly proud of these students and all that they accomplished. Our goal is to inspire the next generation of scientists and researchers, and we need your help to continue providing programs like these that give students hands-on experience in STEM fields. By supporting our efforts, you can make a real difference in the lives of these students and help them succeed. We invite you to visit our website at www.oak-crest.org to learn more about our programs and how you can get involved. Because of your support and interest in our programs, you're helping us train the next generation of scientists!



Katie Howard and Elemy Valdez working at the lab bench.



Crystals formed by the bacteria isolated by the students (photo taken with microscope).