

STEM CORE

2016-2017 Highlights | Looking Ahead

Field Trips

This year, the cohort had the opportunity to attend four field trips: The San Jose Mini-Maker Faire, Manufacturing Day @ Jabil, Monterey Bay Aquarium Behind the Scenes Tour, and The Computer History Museum.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Jim Hansen from the Naval Research Lab came on campus in the fall to talk to students about his role and internship opportunities for students at NRL. During both semesters, students had the chance to learn more about the NASA NCCAS internship program which allows students to visit a NASA facility and engage in a four day robotics competition.

Tutoring

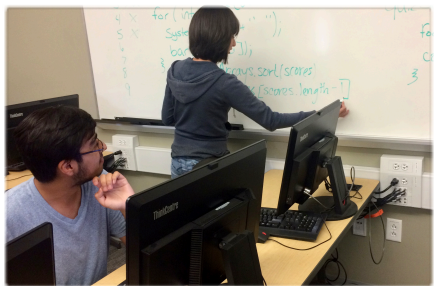
Our tutors, Stephanie and Samm, invested three hours, five days a week, for 34 weeks into our students - that's over 500 hours of support! A huge "Thank You!" for their commitment to student success in this program!



Year-End Recap

This year has been an exciting and ground-breaking year for STEM Core at MPC. In the fall, the first cohort to be a part of this program consisted of 11 students and grew to 16 students by the start of the Spring semester. Students completed Intermediate Algebra, Programming Fundamentals: Python, Precalculus, and Programming Methods I: JAVA during the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to taking classes, the cohort participated in four STEM-related field trips, two guest speaker presentations, and logged more than 300 tutoring hours! We are so proud of MPC's first STEM Core cohort and wish them the best as they pursue their dreams at MPC and beyond!





Changes this Spring

In March, we welcomed our new Student Support Specialist (SSS), Paige Strickland, as we had to say goodbye to our very first SSS, Naomi Lyles, due to military relocation. What a fantastic job she did in getting this program up and running in its first year, and for dedicating so much time and energy into the students!

Here is what one student had to say about Naomi during her time at MPC:

"Naomi was the coolest! She was fun and connected well with the students in the cohort. I really felt that I could talk to her about anything." - Chris

Looking Ahead

STEM Core is currently recruiting students for the 2017-2018 Cohort. So far, we have achieved 30% of our enrollment goal and anticipate reaching capacity by the start of the Fall semester. We are also looking to hire new student tutors for the 2017-2018 school year for both Math and Computer Science. Please visit www.mpc.edu/stemcore for more information.

Featured Story: Computer History Museum

In April, eight students had the chance to visit the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA. As they walked through the "Revolution" exhibit, students examined the history of computing and how technology has evolved of the past 2000 years. As part of this exhibit, students learned how to use ancient mathematical tools and interacted with the first computer games. Following a historical look at computers, students moved on the "Make Software: Change the World!" exhibit, where they learned about modern uses of computers such as Photoshop, MRI, and World of Warcraft. It was also a great opportunity to test their own coding skills! Finally, students explored the world of autonomous vehicles and the role they will play in the future! Overall, it was a fun and interactive learning experience that left students feeling inspired in their pursuit of a degree in STEM!

"I liked how the museum showed you the history of computers as well as where they are going. I learned how new technologies were developed in order to make improvements, and it showed me that something doesn't have to be broken to fix it." - Maria

