

DREAM STEM

NEWSLETTER

WHO WE ARE

The National Science Foundation granted an award to the College of the Florida Keys to create a program entitled “Developing Reliable Educational Avenues to Manifest (DREAM) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Careers”. The project aims to develop unique and exciting STEM career pathways that will remove barriers to entrance, reduce anxiety, and reward success as students transition from STEM academia to the STEM workforce.



Figure 1. STEM Ambassadors at Key West High School during the STEM Forum

KEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL STEM FORUM

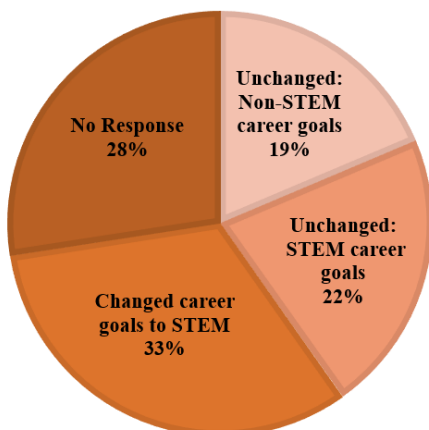


Figure 2. Results from the STEM Forum. Special Note - 33% changed their career goal to STEM

STEM AMBASSADOR OUTREACH

The DREAM STEM program offers: (1) scholarship opportunities for STEM oriented college students, and (2) support for dual enrollment high school students. Scholarship recipients are called STEM Ambassadors. During outreach efforts at local 3rd grade through high school, the STEM Ambassadors act as mentors and share their stories of how they overcame challenges while pursuing their STEM academic careers. Recently, STEM Ambassadors visited Key West HS (Figure 1) and interacted with 102 students. Results showed that 33% changed their career goals to STEM after the outreach effort (Figure 2).

MORE OUTREACH EVENTS



Figure 3. STEM Ambassadors demonstrating VR at Community Day.

COMMUNITY DAY

The College of the Florida Keys annual Community Day features student clubs, local companies, and live performances by local organizations. STEM Ambassadors had the opportunity to connect with community members and promote the program through the use of virtual reality headsets (Figure 3). Community members had the choice to experience a virtual scuba dive with sharks or observe the Earth from a spacewalk. Overall, the interactive experience sparked interest in the younger audience to consider pursuing a STEM career.

FLORIDA KEYS DAY

STEM Ambassadors had the opportunity to travel to the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee to meet with senators and state representatives to share their stories and emphasize the importance of the DREAM STEM program in their educational journeys. Later in the day, the ambassadors represented the college at the Florida Keys Day advocacy event (Figure 4). This was a great learning experience for the STEM ambassadors as they got the chance to network and build connections with state legislatures and other Monroe County organizations.



Figure 4. STEM Ambassadors demonstrating VR marine science training aids and renewable energy projects during Florida Keys Day at the State Capitol.



Figure 5. STEM Ambassadors at the STEM Job Fair promoting the DREAM STEM program.

STEM JOB FAIR

The College of the Florida Keys hosted a STEM Job Fair, which provided students with a chance to speak one-on-one with industry representatives and gain valuable information about potential internship or career opportunities. The STEM Ambassadors had a table at the event to spread awareness about the DREAM STEM program and promote internship opportunities with local employers (Figure 5).



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