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Matanel Scholarships: Experiencing Science-2012

Name of program

Matanel Scholarships: Experiencing Science

Year of activity

2012

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Status of program

During 2011, Matanel scholarships enabled 105 boys and girls of Ethiopian origin to participate in science oriented summer camps run by 10 universities, academic institutes, colleges and regional councils.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

- Ben Gurion University (BGU), Beersheva: 20 students, all of whom had graduated ninth grade, participated in the over-night summer camp offered by BGU and held at Kibbutz Sde Boker. Students came from cities in Southern Israel: Kiryat Gat, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Kiryat Malachi. An additional 13 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades from Beersheva

participated in day camps on the BGU campus. Camps included “Loving Science”, “Summer Maths” and “Building Websites.”

- Weitzman Institute, Rechovot: 10 students, all graduates of fifth and sixth grades and from Bat Yam and Rishon Letzion participated in “Loving Science” camp at the Weitzman Institute.
- Technion, Haifa: Six graduates of ninth grade at Levinson Junior High School in Kiryat Yam participated in summer camps for medicine, architecture, robotics and mathematical thinking.
- Tel Aviv University (TAU): 11 students from Bnei Brak, Petach Tikva, Or Yehuda and Rishon Letzion participated in TAU summer camps for graduates of sixth through 12th grades. Five students enrolled in summer camps for “Young Lawyers”, Social Psychology” and “Early Chapters of Science.” Six students (all of whom were in 10th grade) participated in an overnight camp, in English, and in the fields of youth leadership and sports.
- Tel Aviv University, Erica Landau Institute for Engineering: 12 students in sixth grade from Netanya participated in the “Learning for the Future” program. Matanel Foundation support for this summer camp was earmarked for transportation costs only.
- Hebrew University, Jerusalem: Six graduates of sixth through eighth grades attended academic programs for medicine and physics at the Hebrew University.
- Oranim Academic College: 13 graduates of fifth and sixth grades from Afula participated in a biology course entitled “Animal Life”, a history course entitled “the Vikings” and select courses in economics.
- Afula Municipality: 10 children from second through sixth grades participated in a science oriented summer camps run by the municipality of Afula, one entitled “Challenges” and the other “Hi-Tech.”
- Ashdod Municipality: Four children in fourth and fifth grades participated in day camps run by Ashdod Municipality at the local Eshkol Payis center, one entitled “Robotics” and the other “Loving Science.”
- Technoda Hadera: One child who graduated third grade attended the “Loving Science” summer camp offered in Hadera.

Evaluation

- 2012 is the first year that “Experiencing Science” is being implemented by the Steering Center, and for this reason there is no base line data for comparison.
- According to the proposal submitted to Matanel in May 2011, the Steering Center anticipated assisting 50 students during the 2011 school year. During implementation, the Steering Center was able to assist 106 students.
- Methodology: Students who participated in “Experiencing Science” were identified by a network of mediators and liaisons operated by the Steering Center nationally, and via recommendations from school teachers. The Steering Center ensured that parents of all participants understood the goals of the project, and gave written consent for participation. Steering Center staff accompanied all the students for the duration of the science oriented summer camps, and administered questionnaires at the end of the summer.
- Feedback from participants: According to feedback collected from the students via questionnaires, the scholarship winners thoroughly enjoyed participating in the science oriented summer camps. For many it was the very first time they had visited an academic institution or taken part in informal educational programs focused on science. The Ethiopian students integrated fully into the summer camps, which were attended by Israeli children from all population groups. In the Technion for example, of the 900 children that participated in the summer camp, only six students were from the Ethiopian-Israeli community – all of whom

were able to do so as result of Matanel support. All children remained enrolled until the summer camps concluded, and the dropout rate was negligible.

Others

The Steering Center will work to leverage Matanel support, and other bodies' support during the coming year so that 300 children from the Ethiopian-Israeli community, aged between 10 – 17 years, will be able to participate in science oriented summer camps during the summer vacation (July-August 2013.)

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