Matanel Scholarships: Experiencing Science – 2015

Name of Program
164

Year of Activity
2015

Name of the Report's Writer
Shoshana Becker

Function of the Report's Writer
Director of Resource Development

Phone and Email
Email: Shoshana.be@kidum-edu.org.il
Phone: 052-7773409

Status of Program

Between June – August 2015, scholarships from the Matanel Foundation made it possible for 245 children from Israel's geographic and socio-economic periphery to participate in science-oriented camps run by 6 universities. Of this group, 99 were children of Ethiopian origin coming from 21 schools through the Steering Center for Ethiopian Immigrants in the Education System; 37 students from four SAE schools and residences and 109 youngsters from 13 other schools in Jerusalem, Ofakim and Merhavim.

Main Achievements During the Last Year of Activity

Hebrew University, Jerusalem: Fifteen 4^{th}-11^{th} grade students participated in various youth science courses, including veterinary medicine, microbiology and medicine, astronomy and physics.

Tel Aviv University (TAU): Twelve 10^{th} and 11^{th} graders participated in a range of science courses, such as medical engineering, a multi-disciplinary look at the brain and cosmology-astrophysics. One of these students participated in the prestigious "Summer University for Youth" camp, a five-week sleepover program which grants academic credit that can be applied to future studies.

Erica Landau Center for Excellence at TAU: Ten youngsters in 5th and 6th grades participated in the "Courage to Discover" program.

Bar Ilan University: Fifteen 8-11th graders took part in a multi-disciplinary science camp that encompassed robotics, brain science, chemistry, biotechnology, physics and nanotechnology.

Ben Gurion University of the Negev: A total of 123 students from 4th – 10th grade participated in various science courses for youth, including Arduino programming, robotics and "The Digital World."

The Technion: Nineteen 8th-10th graders attended a range of science workshops for youth, including biotechnology, flight science, physics, chemistry and medicine.

The Weizmann Institute of Science: A total of 48 youngsters in 5th – 8th grade took part in summer workshops, including "Young Doctors," "Math-Science" and "Mechanics-Electronics."

<u>SAE Summer Camp</u>
Recognizing that many of its students required a dormitory framework during summer vacation, SAE ran a sleepover camp program at the Steinberg School for 29 students who were integrated into science programs at the Weizmann Institute and Bar Ilan University. SAE furnished afternoon and evening programming as well as transportation and meals for these 9th and 10th graders.

Evaluation

Participants for the program were selected on the basis of:

- High motivation and a recommendation from their school
- Good behavior
- Low socio-economic family background

The parents of each youngster paid a symbolic participation fee of NIS 50 ($13) for short camps of 10 days or less, and NIS 100 ($26) for camps longer than 10 days, largely to indicate their commitment to the program. Parents of 57 of the non-SAE (Residences and Steering Center) children, paid a higher sum, NIS 450 ($118) for Ben Gurion University and NIS 700 ($184) for Hebrew University, to cover the remaining tuition cost above the scholarship amount.

The program was highly successful in integrating students from different socio-economic levels together in a joint learning framework. Follow-up during the course of the year will determine the extent to which participation in summer programming increased the youngsters' achievements in the sciences.

On the basis of evaluation of the program, coordinators intend to begin planning and coordinating with the universities earlier next year (in February).

Other

Quote from a principal:

“The university studies empowered the participants, exposed them to the wide world of academia and opened new horizons for realizing their potential. This project is a milestone for them.”

Quotes from students:

“I participated in Youth Science Courses at Tel Aviv University, and studied in courses of economics and game theory, and psychology. I gained a lot of knowledge. And it’s so much fun to study in university! I am a person who aims high, and being at university showed me a place that is key to a successful future.”

“I loved studying in university. I participated in a course about brain science, and I learned many things that will help me in the future. The course gave me confidence to reach high.”

“Being in university helped me broaden my thinking, and see that it is really fun to learn so many things!”