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Program Spotlight – *Adventure in Science:* *Baltimore City 4-H SET Initiative*

By *Tanisha English*

Science education has been a key concern both locally and nationally for several years. Recent studies have shown that American youth are not performing as well as their international counterparts in the area of scientific testing and achievement. There is also a decline and a level of disparity in the number of American youth going on to pursue advanced degrees in science. The National Association for Educational Progress indicated that in 2005 a mere 18% of high school seniors were proficient in science. The National Science Foundation reported that, though comprising a combined 25% of the general American population, minorities earn only 16.2% of the bachelor degrees, 10.7% of the master's degrees, and 5.4% of the doctorate degrees in science and engineering. Reports have also shown a decrease in scientific achievement from the 4th grade to the 12th grade.



In a country that prides itself on being a super power through the hard work, technology advances and educational prowess of its people, these reports are cause for concern. What is to be done about this issue? Who can and will provide resources to curb this trend for the good of our youth and the country as a whole? Areas where educators, congress, and other organizations are looking to improve the overall picture of the pursuit of scientific careers are pre-college education, curricula, and delivery modes. In fact, in an April 2007 status report for members and committees of congress on science, engineering, and mathematics education, the Congressional Research Service indicated that "precollege science and mathematics instruction has an important relationship to the future supply of U.S. scientific and technological personnel and to the general scientific literacy of the nation."

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| May 6 th | Baltimore City
4-H Youth
Expo |
| May 15 th | Make a
Choice, Make
a Change
Challenge! |
| June 23 rd | Eviction
Prevention
Seminar |

*For more details on events
please see page 7*

Program Spotlight-Adventure in Science from page 1

Due to fact that 4-H works through a structure that promotes hands-on inquiry based learning to youth ages 8-18, we are in a great position to encourage and increase scientific learning and to promote science learning interest among the youth that we serve. Nationally, 4-H has committed to preparing 1 million new young people to excel in science engineering, and technology by the year 2013. Locally we are engaged in this mission by expanding successful science, engineering, and technology programs throughout the city. An increase in the number of youth served by the Adventure in Science program is a component of Baltimore City 4-H's response to this need.

Adventure In Science (AIS) is a non-formal science program of the Baltimore City 4-H Youth Development program. The goal of the program is to allow youth to become excited and aware of science through the exploration of science topics. The target audience is Baltimore City youth between the ages of 8 and 15 years old. The key components of the program are youth, hands-on science learning activities, partnership with community leaders, and caring adult volunteers who have the desire to engage youth in actively learning science.

The Adventure In Science Program began in the city 20 years ago. This program originated in Montgomery County, Maryland where Dr. Ralph Nash, a NASA scientist, who saw the need for youth to experientially explore scientific topics through interacting with a professional scientist. Since 1998, the Adventure in Science Program has served over 3500 youth in Baltimore City. Youth have been recruited from all over the city to attend this 6 – 8 week program that highlighted different components of science. Lessons varied from session to session and were facilitated by professional scientists, science hobbyist, and/or youth. The program began at a local university and then transitioned to the local extension office.

The current program has maintained its commitment to the core components while expanding the number of youth reached by this program. Interested volunteers are trained to implement a particular Wonderwise curriculum during a 6 week session. The 4-H Wonderwise curricula allow youth to learn more about science through the career of a woman scientist. The current topic being highlighted by AIS is *Genetic Counselor*. In this module, youth meet Kathy Burson, a genetic counselor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and spend the rest of the time learning about traits, DNA, chromosomes, and some of the processes that make them unique.

The participants and trainers of this program embody AIS's commitment to engage the community. Participants are a mix of new and current volunteers, after school site personnel and non site specific volunteers, and persons with and without a substantial science background. The sites include schools, community libraries, recreation centers, and community organization sites. Some sites are participants in The After School Institute's Great Science for Girls program. All participants had some previous experience working with youth and intend to implement the AIS program during after school hours. The trainings are conducted by the educator in conjunction with adult and youth volunteers who are veterans of the program, and knowledgeable persons from The University of Maryland Medical Schools Masters Program in Genetic Counseling.



Tyler Coston (age 9), Teshauna Williams (age 8), and Tyesha Singleton (age 9), 3rd graders at Edgcombe Circle Elementary, pose while preparing to make a double-helix DNA strand out of candy.

Program Spotlight- Adventure in Science from page 2



Jessica Meulbroek and Rika Wright, 4-H volunteers, proudly display the DNA models that they have made.

Edgewcombe Circle Elementary School After School Program recently completed a 6 week AIS program this spring. Rika Wright and Jessica Meulbroek, new 4-H volunteers, partnered with music teacher, Charles Arnette, to engage the students in learning about genetics. When asked why she decided to volunteer with the AIS program, Jessica stated that, "We all had one person who got us jazzed about science. I think that youth deserve as many opportunities as possible to have someone get them jazzed about science." The AIS program is her contribution to the youth in the AIS program. And she definitely has succeeded. When interviewed, Tyler Coston (age 9), Teshauna Williams (age 8), and Tyesha Singleton (age 9), 3rd graders at Edgewcombe Circle Elementary, all stated that the program was fun, the volunteers were cool, they learned about DNA and genes, and they loved making DNA out of candy! Go figure.

For more information on the Baltimore City 4-H AIS Program, please contact tanishaE@umd.edu. For more information on 4-H's commitment to increasing science literacy and aptitude in 1 million youth by the year 2013, please see http://4-h.org/programs_mission_mandates/set.html.

Financial Management

By *Michael Elonge*

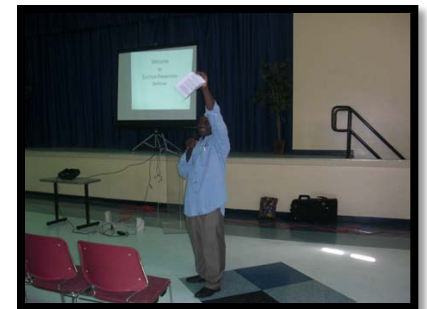


Financial Management Education News to Baltimore City Schools (Regular, After School, and GED Programs)

The Financial Management Education Program, University of Maryland Extension (UME)-Baltimore City is available to fill community education gaps in economics, finance, and money management. We provide seminars, train-the-trainer, and workshops as well as guest speaking on the following topics.

High Schools:

- What is Economic Thinking? Why Every High Student Should Know It: Decision-making, Resources Allocation, Scarcity, Choice/Preference, Prioritizing, and Opportunity cost.
- Understand How Our Economy Operates (the Circular Flow) The Role of Households (Individuals & Families), Businesses (Firms), Markets, and the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.
- Do Not Go Shopping Without Understanding How the Market Operates: A concise understanding of the Market System from the story of Trade by Barter to modern Market forces (Demand, Supply, and Price), basic graphical analysis of the market, and market types: Labor, Product, and Capital markets.



Michael Elonge

FM-Financial Management News from page 3

- **Don't Just Spend It, Understand It (The Economics of Money):**
Supply and Demand of Money, Earning, Budgeting, Spending, and Savings (Investments); Interest Rates and its effect on spending, savings and investments decisions.
- **Using Economics to Plan your Future (Forecasting):** This can be the key to unlock your future education and occupation - College preparation and future job analysis, career choices, college choice and preference, tuition and student loans, grants and scholarships.

Middle Schools:

- **Understand the Basics of Money Management:**
Workshops on the History of Money, Scarcity, Choice and Preference, Earnings, Budgeting, Spending, and Savings.

Elementary Schools (3rd – 5th Graders) – MoneySmart Seminar:

Through financial literacy education and guided activities, this seminar will begin to prepare teens for the future understanding of the importance of money and strategies to effectively spend, share, and save as they plan for college and adulthood.

- **Outcomes:**
 - Understand the differences between needs and wants.
 - Be able to prioritize their needs and wants
 - Understand the differences between fixed and flexible expenses.
 - Plan to develop a budget, including a savings goal such as a college education.

For more information on Financial Management in Baltimore City Schools, please contact Michael Elonge at melonge@umd.edu

Urban Agriculture

By *Carla Smith*

Are You 'Bay Wise'?

Most Baltimore City residents live within a half-mile of a storm drain, stream or river. Most of those waterways like the Jones Falls River will eventually drain into the Chesapeake Bay.

What we do to maintain our own landscapes affects the health of our local waterways (drainage ditches, streams and rivers), the Inner Harbor, the Chesapeake Bay and our environment. We can do our part to take care of our waterways and environment by doing a few simple things:

Recycle leaves, yard trimmings and organic kitchen scraps, such as fruit & vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea and coffee grounds, rather than thrown away.

Control Stormwater Runoff

Any rain and irrigation water that runs off carries soil, debris, fertilizer and



Chesapeake Bay

Urban Ag-*Are you 'Bay Wise'?* from page 4

pesticides from your yard into neighborhood storm drains that lead to local streams, rivers, drinking water reservoirs and the Bay. These substances can harm living organisms, habitats and water quality. Reducing runoff from your property minimizes these problems.

Don't Litter!!!

Trash is one of the biggest issues in the Baltimore City waterways. Trash like bottles, cans and Styrofoam float downstream with a rain storm, causing a big mess in the river and the Inner Harbor. So where does it come from? Frankly, it's us. Most trash comes from our vehicles, whether it's something tossed off board or trash blowing out of the back of trucks. When a trash can blows over or a cup gets dropped, chances are it will wash into a storm drain and into our streams during the next rainfall. Trash also works its way into our streams via storm water. However, we still do have issues with illegal dumping in more secluded parts of the city, many times from stolen goods or from contractors that don't want to pay dumping fees.

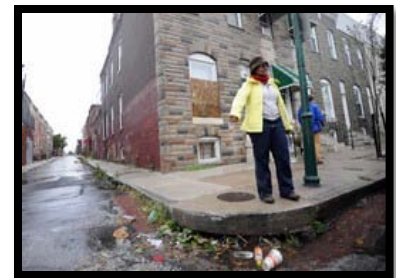
Be part of the solution!

- Dispose of trash properly.
- Tie off trash bags and secure trash can lids on trash day.
- Adopt a stream to remove trash throughout the year.

By changing a few simple habits, you and your family can help keep Maryland communities healthy. The MD Bay-Wise Program is an educational program conducted by the University of Maryland Extension's Master Gardeners in several counties (including Baltimore City).

If you are interested in learning more about how you can create and maintain a healthy landscape, check out the MD Master Gardeners Baywise website. It has valuable info that you can pass along to your neighbors:
<http://baywise.umd.edu/index.cfm>

For more information about Urban Agriculture, please contact Carla Smith at cysmith@umd.edu



Litter that drains into the bay

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

By *Kerry McCarthy*

EFNEP and Chronic Disease Prevention in Baltimore City Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge!



EFNEP

According to the Baltimore City Neighborhood Health Profiles for 2008, <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/neighborhood.html>, a report developed by Baltimore City Health Department Office of Epidemiology and Planning and Sommer Scholars from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, there is a 20-year difference in mortality rates between the

EFNEP – EFNEP Chronic Disease Prevention from page 5

Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market neighborhood in southwest Baltimore and the Greater Roland Park/Poplar Hill in the northwest. In looking further into this report, the top two causes of death in the Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market neighborhood are heart disease and cancer, with heart disease at 41% which is well above the overall city average. Additionally, the rate of death by diabetes is at 9% which is more than double the city average. These startling statistics set in motion the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program's (EFNEP) plan to develop a community-focused event in the southwest area of the city to promote healthy eating, healthy eating access, and the prevention of chronic diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. In collaboration with many supporting partners, EFNEP is leading the Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge!



**MAKE A CHOICE, MAKE A CHANGE
CHALLENGE!**

—HEALTHIER FAMILIES, HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge! will be held on Saturday, May 15th, 2010 from 11:00am-3:00PM at George Washington Elementary School in Washington Village. The purpose of the Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge! is to promote healthy eating, healthy eating access, and the prevention of chronic disease. ([Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge Fact Sheet](#))

The event is open to individuals and families featuring information booths, resource tables, food demos, activities and speakers. Participants will be provided with information, resources and tools to make changes that lead to healthier eating and ultimately preventing chronic disease. Our hope is that through strengthened partnerships among service agencies working with chronic disease prevention and community participants, there will be an increased commitment and collaboration around chronic disease prevention in the southwest area of Baltimore City. If you would like to help promote the event through distribution of a Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge! flyer, or would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Keisha Ratley at kratley@umd.edu or call 410-856-1850 Ext. 115.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Baltimore City 4-H Expo

The Baltimore City 4-H Expo will be held May 6th, 2010 at the War Memorial Building, 101 North Gay Street, from 10:00am to 6:00pm. The Baltimore City 4-H Youth Expo is a citywide event that showcases the talents and skills of youth between the ages of 5-18 in the areas of entrepreneurship, expressive arts, sciences, photography, healthy lifestyles, baked goods, clothing construction, horticulture, service learning, and leadership development. Participants have the opportunity to qualify for competition at the Maryland State Fair. There will be continuous entertainment, vendors, and educational stations.

Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge!

Make A Choice, Make A Change Challenge! will be held on Saturday, May 15th, 2010 from 11:00-3:00PM at George Washington Elementary School, 800 Scott Street. The purpose of the Make a Choice, Make a Change Challenge! is to promote healthy eating, healthy eating access, and the prevention of chronic disease. The event is open to individuals and families featuring information booths, resource tables, food demos, activities and speakers.

Eviction Prevention Seminar in Baltimore City

The Eviction Prevention Seminar will be held June 23rd 2010, at New Shiloh Baptist Church, 2100 North Monroe Street, from 9:00am to 1:30pm. This is a *Free Community Education on Eviction Prevention* by State and Private Community Organizations in Baltimore (University of Maryland Extension, Greater Baltimore Affordable Housing, Baltimore Gas and Electricity -GBE, Public Justice Center, Housing Authority of Baltimore City, and DHR - Baltimore City Department of Social Services).

This seminar is organized by the Financial Management Education Program, University of Maryland Extension (UME)-Baltimore City, a community unit of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland, College Park.

Educating People to Help Themselves

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Please complete this form and return it to:

Urban Living University of Maryland Extension
6615 Reisterstown Road, Suite 201
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Yes, I live in the City and would like *Urban Living* mailed to my home at no cost to me.

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