

College ^{1st}

Empowering Students for College and Career Success



EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE SUCCESS



We are grateful to celebrate 11 years of working in partnership with Visionary Leaders from School Districts, Educational Service Centers, and Post-secondary Institutions.

Established 2013

Scan this QR code to visit our website:



WHY?

We believe all students can be successful. Those who explore and design their future college and career plans early will have more time, options, and resources to become better prepared to succeed. Students can only aspire to become what they know. We exist to educate, inspire, and guide all students who want to #BeSuccessful.



THE COLLEGE 1ST PROGRAM:

1. Promote the importance of completing a **post-secondary education**.
2. Bring awareness of fast-growing **STEAM career opportunities** through hands-on academic enrichment activities and mentorship experiences.
3. Define and put into practice the essential **21st-century skills** for students to achieve college, career, and life success.

1. IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

2. INCREASE STUDENT ATTENDANCE

3. IGNITE EARLY COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



HOW?

We partner with visionary leaders from school districts, education service centers, and post-secondary institutions who believe all their students can succeed in college and future careers. We actively seek these essential partnerships to accomplish our joint mission of preparing all students for college, career, and life success.

WHAT?

We work with students on their future. We strive to facilitate the best college and career exploration student experience through hands-on academic enrichment activities and real-world mentorship opportunities. We give students the knowledge, skills, and guidance to accomplish their future college, career, and life goals.



COLLEGE & CAREER EXPLORATION CAMPS



#1. SPACE EXPLORATION

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars learn about topics such as our galaxy, black holes, and the moon. They take a fascinating journey through our solar system and the universe and explore the possibility of settling a permanent station on the moon. Scholars plan a moon mission, design the next moon rover, and launch a rocket they built as NASA prepares the next generation of astronauts to step foot on the moon again after more than 50 years.



#2. HEALTH PROFESSIONS

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars simulate the roles and responsibilities of healthcare professionals. They engage in different healthcare activities as they experience what it takes to become the next generation of Medical Doctors, Nurses, and Physical Therapists. Scholars also learn about the rigorous medical school admission process and become familiar with the skills and experience needed to be a successful applicant.



#3. ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

*MATH / ELA

Scholars discover the world of architecture, construction, and civil engineering. They are introduced to modern structural engineering, sustainable architecture & interior design models, and real estate investments. They participate in exciting hands-on activities and competitions, such as testing an architectural structure, building a sturdy bridge, and designing a home floor plan.



#4. ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

*SCIENCE/MATH

Scholars explore different sources of renewable energy and learn about our planet's environmental challenges, such as pollution, animal exploitation, and habitat loss. They then use their engineering and creative skills to build an environmentally friendly invention to reduce greenhouse gases on our planet. They also build a wind turbine that generates electric power in an exciting competition.



*All CAMPS can be customized to include Reading and Writing (ELA), Math, Science and Social Studies State Test Standards at the Elementary, Middle School and High School Level.



#5. CSI FORENSIC SCIENCE

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars become CSI Investigators to solve a mysterious murder case at a university campus. They explore forensic science, law enforcement, and military careers while understanding the U.S. Judicial Branch. Scholars gather evidence and participate in forensic science labs, including blood splatter, fingerprinting, hair analysis, and footprint. Scholars assume the attorney's role as they defend their client, one of the suspects in this unsolved mystery.



#6. BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*MATH / ELA

Scholars engage in an exciting entrepreneurship and marketing competition. They are challenged to invent a new product, create a branding campaign to take it to the marketplace and develop a business pitch as they become real-world entrepreneurs. Scholars must use their persuasive sales skills to introduce their new product to potential investors and clients to make it successful in today's global economy.



#7. MARINE BIOLOGY

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars dive into the wonders of marine life as they explore the world's oceans, their diverse habitats, and endangered marine species. They explore how some technological advancements are causing human behavior to increase ocean pollution, animal poaching, and overfishing, contributing to the destruction of marine ecosystems. Scholars develop innovative solutions to solve the challenges our oceans and their marine species are facing.



#8. DINOSAUR WORLD

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars are immersed in the fascinating world of dinosaurs. They learn how our planet has evolved, the paleontological species that lived during different geological eras, and discover the earth's crust patterns and fossil formations developed millions of years ago. Scholars engage in hands-on activities as they understand the different types of dinosaurs, unveil a fossil, and relive the last day of their favorite dinosaur on our ancient planet.



#9. DRONES & ROVERS

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars realize how emerging technologies are revolutionizing many industries, from military operations and security surveillance to manufacturing and agriculture. Drones, robots, and rovers equipped with the latest technology are shaping how we live and work today. Scholars learn about Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), including the new ChatGPT, and develop innovative Rovers and Drones as practical solutions to solve today's world challenges.



#10. EARTH SCIENCE

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars explore how our Planet Earth works and how we can help it thrive. They engage in interactive earth science activities like understanding the logic behind global climate change, extreme weather events, and humankind's carbon footprint. Scholars develop innovative solutions to the many challenges our Planet Earth faces. They design and build a battery-powered electric vehicle and participate in a thrilling race competition.



#11. GLOBAL PANDEMIC

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars engage in interactive activities to learn the science behind a global pandemic. They understand how COVID-19 originated and spread worldwide as they immerse themselves in the role of scientists, government leaders, and media working together to avoid catastrophic consequences for humanity. Scholars participate in hands-on academic enrichment activities that include DNA Analysis, Virus Identification, and Disease Prevention.



#12. MEDIA ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

*SOCIAL STUDIES / ELA

Scholars assume the role of social media influencers, graphic designers, and journalists. They participate in a series of hands-on activities to understand the responsibilities of a social media influencer. Scholars learn from the scientific causes of social media addiction to use these 21st-century technology platforms when working with marketing agencies and companies to promote a product using the latest media arts and communication tools.



#13. COLONIZING MARS

*ELA / MATH

Scholars learn all about Mars, from understanding its atmosphere, gravity, and diverse terrains to the technology humankind needs to colonize it to become a multi-planetary species. They develop a fascinating Mission to Mars and explore signs of ancient life on the Red Planet. Scholars design a Mars Mission, build a Mars Rover, and launch a Rocket that reaches an altitude of over 1,000 feet!



#14. ANIMAL BIOLOGY

*SCIENCE / ELA

Scholars explore a wide range of animal species and their ecosystems. They learn how human behavior and environmental changes can affect wild animals and their ecosystems. Scholars develop practical solutions to protect and preserve the most vulnerable animal species and their ecosystems on our planet. They understand the relevance of the food chain and the migration pattern of different species and engage in interactive animal exploration activities.



#15. COLLEGE, CAREER, & LIFE SUCCESS

*ELA / MATH

Scholars engage in a college and career exploration session to learn the essential steps for an effective post-secondary transition. They participate in different hands-on activities to reinforce their success skills, become familiar with key post-secondary support areas, and design their future college, career, and life success plan. Topics such as financial aid/ scholarships, ACT/ SAT, and college enrollment are discussed in this session.



#16. CODING AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT (NEW)

*MATH / SCIENCE

Students are introduced to computer coding, programming languages, and algorithms. They participate in hands-on activities related to software development, website/mobile app design, and coding using robots and drones. They learn about artificial intelligence, different types of software, and pseudocode during this interactive session. This CAMP has been designed to spark student interest in these high-demand career opportunities.

CAMP Sessions

+1650

Virtual CAMP Sessions

+150

Virtual Family Sessions

+75

Family Sessions

+650

Students

+70,000

Families

+45,000



Social-Emotional Learning: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) strategies can be added to any of the CAMP themes listed above. These SEL strategies and related activities are part of the College Readiness Section.

OUR TEAM



The bilingual and bicultural **College 1st Team** is formed by undergraduate and graduate college students along with industry professionals from diverse career backgrounds. They implement academic-enrichment activities, facilitate career exploration sessions, and engage with students in mentorship experiences.

Student Testimonials



It was really exciting! It's helping me push my way to college, and to learn about different careers. I got to learn different attitudes, and skills to help me achieve success in life!

-Lania C.
Region 16 ESC Student



My experience was amazing! I learned about different careers. I think these camps are gonna be really good for my future, they really helped me understand college!

-Angel L.
Jubilee GEAR UP Westwood San Antonio Student



My College 1st experience has been very inspiring and eye-opening. These CAMPS are guiding me in the best direction possible, and I feel very inspired!

-Alexa G.
UTRGV Upward Bound Student

PARTNERSHIPS



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