



Service Learning at Howard B. Owens Science Center



Introduction

I am completing a service learning internship at Howard B. Owens Science Center (HBO). This center hosts field trips for schools in Prince George's County where they provide the school children with hands-on STEM activities and experimentation. The main goal is to expose students to these subjects in an alternative form to the standard teaching that is done in most classrooms.

Activities

Many of the projects that I work on at HBO serve to lessen the workload of the instructors at the center to allow them to dedicate as much time as they can to running their programs. These projects include prepping materials for the programs that the teachers are running, as well as preparing for events at the center such as Family Science Night.

In addition to these smaller projects, there were two larger projects that I worked on throughout the year. The first was constructing an arena out of twine and PVC pipe for students to fly drones that they built during one of the programs. The other was working with the other interns at HBO to design our own STEM program in our fields of study to be taught at the center in the future.



Drilling holes in PVC pipe for the drone arena



My t-shirt design for Family Science Night

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Impact

Because of the work that I did at the center, the instructors had fewer side projects to worry about and were able to focus more on their teaching.

In addition to this, the program that I am developing with the other interns would help to share some of the experience that we are gaining in our fields during our time in college with these younger students. I was not exposed to computer science until my last year of high school, so this would expose these younger students to a STEM subject they would usually not have access to.

Future Work

Howard B. Owens Science Center has been closed along with Prince George's County Public Schools because of the current situation with the coronavirus, which has made it difficult to make progress on our program. If we are unable to finish the program we are working to develop this semester, I would continue to work with the instructors to finish developing it once the center reopens.

It was also proposed that if we are able to finish the program and it gets approved by the center, we could potentially help to run the program for school groups next year.

I would like to thank my mentor at the Howard B. Owens Science Center, Jessica Leedy, as well as the other instructors that I worked with.