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NC-MSEN Pre-College Program

The NC-MSEN Pre-College Program is designed to broaden the pool of students who graduate from high school with sufficient preparation to pursue mathematics and science programs of study at the university level and to move into careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). To achieve these goals, the program offers rigorous science- and mathematics-based academic enrichment classes and activities to traditionally underserved students in grades 6-12. These activities are integrated into the core curriculum and include career awareness programs, leadership training, academic advising and tutoring, academic competitions, and hands-on laboratory experiences in different STEM areas.

**PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

- **Academic Enrichment Classes** - classes that are offered daily at several Pre-College Program sites to middle school students
- **Academic Chapter of Excellence (ACE) Clubs** - academic organizations that provide a peer support group for those interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- **Saturday Academy** - a series of courses and field trips held at Pre-College Program sites during the school year
- **Summer Programs** - academic activities that include the Summer Scholars Program and the Pre-College Research Experiences Program (PREP)
- **Leadership Conference** - a statewide annual conference offers leadership and teamwork training
- **MSEN Day** - a statewide annual STEM competition

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Parents are expected to participate and to ensure that their children participate fully in the Pre-College Program activities. As members of Parents Involved in Excellence (PIE) Clubs, parents attend workshops and meetings on topics such as school academic requirements and standardized testing. PIE Clubs also support student activities by providing volunteers for events and by assisting program staff with planning.

**HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

The NC-MSEN Pre-College Program actively recruits and prepares students of average to above average ability in grades 6-12 who have not been sufficiently exposed to mathematics- and science-based courses and careers.

The administration of school-based programs (academic enrichment classes and ACE Clubs) is determined by the local education agency (LEA) in collaboration with the university. Admission to the schools’ programs does not guarantee admission to the university’s programs, such as Saturday classes or summer activities, which often have a limited capacity.

For information on admission to the NC-MSEN Pre-College Program, please contact either the Network Office in Chapel Hill or individual Pre-College Program site in your area. Program information can also be found on our website at: http://www.unc.edu/depts/msen