The College of Sciences and Mathematics Office of Outreach at Auburn University aims to promote scientific literacy and interest among K-12 students, teachers, and communities in our region, our state, and our nation.

- **23.8 %** increase in # of Science Matters students
- **7,903** on-campus, student participants
- **70,000** off-campus, student participants
About COSAM Outreach

To promote careers in science and mathematics among the K-12 students of today, the College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University has designed an innovative outreach division offering special activities, workshops, and programs throughout the year for the general public and K-12 students and teachers. These activities are designed to provide a continuum of programs for students in various stages of their educational development.

The year 2012 was a great year for the College of Sciences and Mathematics Office of Outreach. Over 10,000 students, parents, and teachers participated in an outreach function on-campus. Additionally, over 70,000 students and teachers were impacted through Alabama Science in Motion and the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI).

In addition to high impact numbers, two new programs were added to the outreach arsenal to better impact our community. The Summer Science Institute and the Auburn Mathematical Puzzle Challenge (AMP’d Challenge) increased COSAM’s ability to reach a wide range of audiences.

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This high impact program was a huge success in its ability to deeply increase student’s understanding of basic scientific research and careers related to the sciences.

AMP’d is a uniquely themed math event for 7th-8th grade students in which students attempt to ‘crack the case’ by solving a series of hands-on math challenges. Through the incorporation of technology and well-developed characters and theme, middle school students were thoroughly engaged in an entire Saturday full of math and, as many of them stated in their survey, they “Would love to come back any time!”

These two programs definitely add great depth of learning in both math and science. They only represent a fraction of what occurred during 2012. Please take a moment to review our annual report for more information on this past year’s successes.
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Dear fellow stakeholders

This has been an exciting year for COSAM Outreach as we continue to expand and impact larger audiences with our innovative programs. Along with the 15 or so programs we continue support each year, we initiated three new programs in 2012, including the AU-Summer Science Institute, Kidz-sized SCIENCE, and the AMP’d Challenge for high schools.

I’m often asked, “How do you know you’re making a difference”? Truthfully, it’s not always immediately apparent that our programs make a difference, or what that difference might be for a young person. But, we believe in what we are doing and every so often, we get a glimpse into how one of our programs has impacted a young person. The following excerpts are from an unsolicited letter we received from a student who participated in our Summer Science Institute:

By the end of my week at Auburn, after visiting and learning from so many professors, counselors, graduates, and undergraduates, I finally understood what it meant to not work a day in your life. As I have heard from advisable others, “Do something you love, and you’ll never have to work a day in your life.” I did not truly understand how you could possibly be working, yet enjoy it. But when I attended AU-SSI, all that I could acknowledge was people who loved what they taught others, learned for themselves, explained, and experienced. And that was enough to give me optimism to figure out my own path, so thank you to the people of Auburn University. Your Science Institute was literally the most amazing adventure that I have ever experienced. Please, never drop AU-SSI, no matter what happens. It has changed my life for the better, as well as the lives of the other twenty-five students who attended the Institute during the summer of 2012 with me. I had never considered Auburn University as a college that I wanted to attend before, but now I feel drawn to make it my first application.

Thank you so much.
Summer Science Institute participant (11th grader)

Are the weeks of planning and crazy hours my staff endures worth it? Every second of it! We are looking forward to another great year in 2013 and hope you will join us in our efforts to inspire the next generation of scientists and mathematicians.

Mary Lou Ewald,