

Alabama Success Stories

Outreach Programs Keep High-Achieving Students in Alabama and Inspire Students to Pursue Rewarding Careers

BY DEAN NICHOLAS J. GIORDANO, COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS, AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Since 1856, Auburn University has awarded more than 300,000 academic degrees to its students. With a rich tradition in higher education, the university also has a variety of engaging summer programs for younger students so that they can learn about the excitement of a career in science.

During the summer semester, students in elementary through high school participate in outreach programs hosted by the College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM) including Science Matters, the Summer Science Institute, and Curious Curators Camps.

Science Matters is a weekly camp for elementary school students that provides hands-on experience on topics such as 3D printing and VEX IQ robots. The Summer Science Institute offers high-achieving 10th and 11th grade students a chance to learn directly from COSAM faculty and conduct college-level experiments.

Curious Curator Camps showcase natural history to young students learning about science.

These programs are not only successful in inspiring students to pursue STEM careers; they add to the framework for economic development throughout the entire state of Alabama.

Students who attend programs on a college campus at a young age become acclimated to the environment of higher education. These students have an opportunity to see the value of attending college in our state, and their parents learn about the possibilities for their young scholars to attend a university in Alabama.

By participating in these programs, students work in university laboratories and classrooms learning about core disciplines of science. These students see that our state is a place for higher learning and advancement through the skills they learned over the summer

and the experiences that will help shape their careers.

The COSAM outreach programs promote the state of Alabama and the valuable resources available at our outstanding universities. They help to keep high-achieving students in our state, provide hands-on experience in STEM fields, and uncover a variety of rewarding, long-term careers in education, manufacturing, healthcare, aerospace, and technology.

To learn how COSAM is making a direct impact on future leaders in the state of Alabama, visit <https://auburn.edu/cosam>.

This is a series of articles about Alabama Success Stories. Please let us know if you have a similar success story you would like us to share with the RSA membership. You may contact us at [communication.correspondences@rsa-al.gov](mailto:correspondences@rsa-al.gov). ●