Grant Allows MMCRI to Expand High School STEM Program

Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI) was recently awarded $10,000 by the Celia Lipton Farris and Victor W. Farris Foundation Community of the Maine Community Foundation (MCF) to develop a curriculum to expand its current high school program throughout Maine. The funding is being used to create a hands-on science and research curriculum pilot program for classrooms.

MMCRI currently offers a high school education program to a small number of Maine high schools in the greater Portland region. Students and teachers travel to MMCRI in Scarborough once a month for a seven-session program to learn about biomedical research through experiential lessons.

Casco Bay High School senior Asha Abdi measures a “melanoma” made of clay as part of a lesson at MMCRI.
‘MMCRI’
From Front

The expanded program created with this grant funding will allow schools to benefit from the MMCRI curriculum for less money and with less traveling.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to expand our current high school program to rural communities and districts that might not have the resources to travel to our laboratories,” said Lucy Liaw, PhD, MMCRI Senior Scientist and Director of Education and Training. “At the same time, it gives us the chance to evaluate the curriculum and learn the best way to deliver such a program.”

MMCRI researchers and staff are working collaboratively with several educators, using lessons from the current high school program to create portable kits for classrooms that will include a detailed on-line science curriculum and videos. Schools will be divided into three groups and each will experience the curriculum differently.

One group will simply be given the materials for a teacher to deliver. A second will interact with an MMCRI researcher over Skype to get assistance delivering and facilitating the lessons. Teachers receiving the video or interacting with the researcher on Skype also will receive on-site training at MMCRI.

The curriculum will adhere to state educational guidelines, enhancing teacher resources for extended project-based STEM activities.

‘Anniversaries’
From Front

Kimberly Pollock, Cardiology
Patricia Stout Del Visco, Health Information Management
Deborah Thibault, IS
Qiaozeng Wang, MMCRI
Jennifer Weiss, SCU3

10 Years
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Shannon Anderson, Continuing Care Nursery
Jennifer Atwood, NICU
Marilyn Childress, BBCH
Kelly Curry, Finance
Jeffrey Demers, Radiation Therapy
Leonard Dexter, Radiology
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Geraldine Forbes, Adult Medicine
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Sarah Wright, Neurology

Lisa DiBiase, Gibson Pavilion
Alex Dickinson, Pulmonary Medicine
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Stephen Fox, R8
Francesca Gallant, Food Services
Andrew Gesler, ER Nursing
Emily Holmgren, Urology
Mattie Kahn, Vocational Services
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Michelle Cafferky, R3
Jennifer Campbell, Physical Therapy
Ruth Curtis, Endocrinology & Diabetes
Samantha Menengas, Nursing Floats
Sothea Neang, Operating Room
Bridgid Neptune, Administrative Offices
Victoria Noiles, Pediatric Specialty Care
Julie Ouellette, Anesthesiology
Juan Palma-Vargas, Maine Transplant Program
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Anne Richardson, Neurosurgery
Amanda Snow, Windham Primary Care
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