

Launch-IT Program

FACT SHEET

What is Launch-IT?

The Launch-IT Program is designed to launch Lehigh Valley students towards college and careers in Information Technology (IT), sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Technology Alliance and hosted at Lehigh University. Launch-IT is for middle through high school students who are considered at-risk, with limited exposure to Information Technology and college. The Launch-IT Program has hosted sessions in Spring & Summer of 2007. The 2007-2008 Launch-IT Program consists of monthly Saturday meetings throughout the academic year and a three-week summer program.

Launch-IT Vision:

The Launch-IT vision is to promote academic achievement in information technology for at-risk middle and high school students in the Greater Lehigh Valley. The goal is to increase the number of women and underrepresented minorities involved in IT education and careers by exposing 6th – 12th grade students to interactive multimedia and IT inspired learning experiences.

Scope of the Launch-IT Program:

Launch-IT will provide a year-round program where students are exposed to a diverse range of IT inspired projects & activities to inspire and challenge young minds. Students will work with college professors, certified teachers throughout the Lehigh Valley, IT professionals, and undergraduate & graduate students from colleges in the Lehigh Valley area.

In order to promote and support academic achievement in the classroom, Launch-IT students will have tutoring sessions every Launch-IT Saturday with college students & teachers. To empower students to strive to be college-bound, Launch-IT students will be inundated with information about college through guest presentations about the admissions process, financial aid, & career services. With continued parental involvement, support from local middle & high schools, and the enthusiasm & work ethic of our Launch-IT teaching teams, we are driven to launch students into their academic futures with confidence & curiosity.

Programs Offered:

Robotics Team

Students: (6th & 7th graders)

Project: *Programming remotely controlled mobile robots in a simulated Martian landscape, rockets & web design*

Teaching Team: Micheal Sands (Team Leader), Mia Husovsky (Technology Teacher), Safiya Nieves (IT Assistant), Gregory Martin (IT Assistant), Cieola NeSmith (IT Assistant)

Fuego Flash Team

Students: (8th & 9th graders)

Project: *Creating a web-based music juke box using Flash and Action Script*

Teaching Team: Dr. Lynn Columba (Team Leader), Jane Carr (Technology Teacher), James Evans (Graduate Teaching Fellow), Chelsea Gotch (IT Assistant), Carolina Velasquez (IT Assistant)

JAVA Team

Students: (10th, 11th & 12th graders)

Project: *Learning object-oriented design, Java for AP College preparation, & PSAT/SAT prep using web-based tools*

Teaching Team: Dr. Glenn Blank (Team Leader), Chad Neff (Technology Teacher), Isaac Rieksts (Graduate teaching Fellow), Nicholas Anshant (IT Assistant), Ana-luila Alexandrescu (IT Assistant)

Launch-IT Administrative Office:

The administrative office for the Launch-IT Program is housed in the Office of Academic Outreach located at 618 Brodhead Avenue (across the street from the Admissions parking deck). Office phone: 610.758.4133

Launch-IT 2008-2009 Schedule:

Launch-IT Academic Year

Wednesday October 15, 2008	-	Opening Ceremony (7:00-8:30pm)
Saturday October 25, 2008	-	Session #1 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday November 22, 2008	-	Session #2 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday December 13, 2008	-	Session #3 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday January 24, 2008	-	Session #4 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday February 21, 2008	-	Session #5 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday March 14, 2008	-	Session #6 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday April 11, 2008	-	Session #7 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Saturday, April 25, 2008	-	<u>Snow Day</u>
Saturday May 9, 2008	-	Session #8 (8:30AM-4:15PM)

Launch-IT Summer Session

Monday July 20 – Thurs. July 23, 2009	Week #1 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Monday July 27 – Thurs. July 30, 2009	Week #2 (8:30AM-4:15PM)
Monday August 3 – Thurs. August 7, 2009	Week #3 (8:30AM-4:15PM)

Partnerships:

Industrial partners involved with Launch-IT include Binney and Smith, Air Products, PPL, Agere, and Suntex, & authors of First in Math “24” game. Local IT professionals from Just Born, Lucent Technologies, Diluvium, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck have volunteered their time & effort to speak to students about their cutting-edge occupations in information technology.

Key Personnel:

PI Dr. Glenn D. Blank, Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, serves as the Project Director, responsible for management of the project and interaction with the NSF, in addition to leading the JAVA teaching team.

Co-PI Dr. Henry Odi, Executive Director for Academic Outreach & Special Projects, coordinates the activities of the Launch-IT Program in conjunction with the S.T.A.R. Academy.

Co-PI Dr. H. Lynn Columba, Associate Professor in Education & Human Services in Lehigh University’s Graduate College of Education, leads the curriculum development workshops for Launch-IT and serves as lead teacher for the Fuego Flash teaching team.

Consultant M. Jean Russo, research scientist and scholar at the Center for Social Research at Lehigh University, oversees the evaluation.

Colleen E. Solomon, Program Director of Launch-IT.

Liaison between administration, teaching staff, Launch-IT parents & students

Teachers have been recruited for Launch-IT teaching teams from the Bethlehem Area and Allentown School Districts.