

THE COLUMBUS-ATHENS SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Purpose: To facilitate service projects to benefit the Columbus and Athens communities, and simultaneously develop emerging professionals who have the skills to address unmet health-related needs throughout their careers.

THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIP
*Addressing Health Disparities
by Developing Leaders in Service*

Future Scientists and Physicians

Promoting diversity in science and medicine



Introduction

Diversity of perspectives and backgrounds is an important component of science. Diversity in medicine promotes cultural awareness, fosters trust among underserved populations, and improves health outcomes. Despite making up over 25% of the general population, black and Latino students earn just 5-10% of all STEM doctorates and medical degrees. This project promotes involvement in science and medicine through early exposure.

Community Site

Partnering with **KIPP Columbus Middle School**, students explored biomedical science and other STEM fields. Located in Northeast Columbus, KIPP serves a student body with over 90% of students from groups underrepresented in science and medicine and from households below 130% of the federal poverty level.

Project

Conducted a weekly after-school education program designed to complement grade 8 science curriculum.

- Hands-on small group investigations
- Provided access to scientific and medical equipment
- Encouraged student-directed inquiry
- Taught skills used by health care professionals
- Competition made possible the awarding of microscopes, vision-shifting goggles, and electronics kits

Selected Topics

- Optics and vision
- Surgical suturing
- Blood pressure and vital signs
- Nutrition
- Microscopic identification
- Chemical reactions
- Electronics



Impact

- After-school participation of 20 new students and 12 recurring students
- Provided over \$1500 worth of scientific and medical equipment
- Increased student interest in the health sciences



Future

- **Sustainability:** continued through biomedical engineering graduate student volunteers
- **Resources:** activities with reusable supplies allow for minimal ongoing costs
- **Participation:** expansion to 6th and 7th grade students

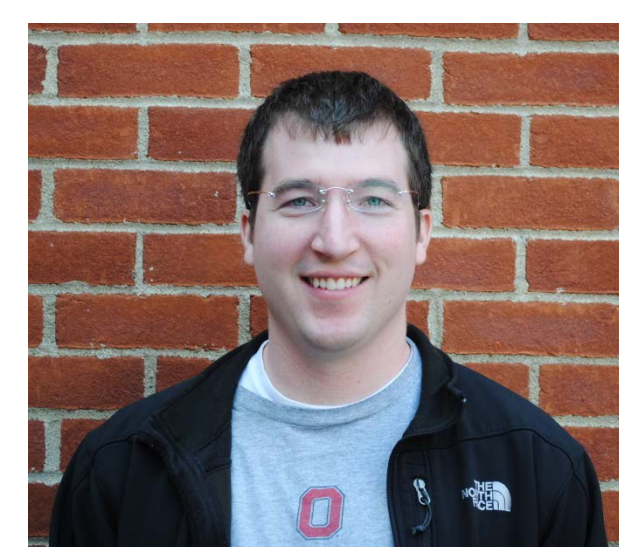
Testimonial

"My students really enjoyed learning about science through hands-on experimentation."

-Najib Kamagate,
KIPP Science Teacher



**Thomas Hirschauer
College of
Medicine**



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**