

## Sensing Our World at Notre Dame 2006



"Sensing Our World" is geared toward middle school students because they're at an at-risk age when it comes to losing interest in science. The science camp originated at Michigan State University's Center for Sensor Materials in 1998, and was replicated at Notre Dame for the first time this year.

According to the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) report, U.S. school children start out at the same level as their international peers in elementary grades. However, they fall behind in science and math by the time they reach the middle grades. When they reach high school, they score below the international average. In response to this finding, "Sensing our World" was designed to expose middle-school students to the exciting world of science, mathematics, and technology in an intensive hands-on environment.

Through hands-on activities, students learned about the scientific principles behind sensors used in everyday life. They made electric circuits, built their own detectors and learned about polymers, cryogenics and electrical generators, and they also had the opportunity to tour and work in the various science labs located all over the Notre Dame campus.

Twenty applicants were admitted to the program, which was partially funded by the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. While there was an initial fee of \$200 per attendee, the money was refunded on the final day of camp provided students participated all week.



### Related Web Sites:

[http://www.jinaweb.org/outreach/SOW/2006/sbt\\_news06.html](http://www.jinaweb.org/outreach/SOW/2006/sbt_news06.html)

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