Joint Institute for Nuclear Astrophysics

Art 2 Science Camp 2014



In its 4th year, the week-long Art 2 Science Camp at the University of Notre Dame hosted 180 students, ages 8-15, and 12 junior counselors, ages 14-18. The students were divided into groups by age and rotated through 24 different hands-on activities that combined art, science, and math. A 13th group worked on a dance/theater performance with Dr. van der Veen from UCSB and the NASA Planck Mission. She choreographed "The Real Big Bang Theory" and taught the students a dance they performed at the end of the camp. Students in this group also learned about the physics aspects of theater including lighting and sound.

The camp theme was "Your role as a member of society" and students were encouraged to think about how they would contribute to society as adults. They also carried observation notebooks with them throughout the week to record their thoughts and impressions about the activities.

Feedback through surveys from students, counselors, activity leaders and parents were overall positive. One aspect of the pre/post survey involved word associations with both art and science. We are planning to publish the results of the presurvey answers to which words "sound like science" as a measure of how local students view science by age and gender.



Above: Students explore fashion concepts derived from aquatic animals.

Below: One student in the primary meeting room shows off her "future shirt"





Parent feedback: I just wanted to tell you that my boys talked non-stop for 45 straight minutes about how awesome camp was today. My parents happen to be in town visiting and my father, an electrical engineer, took no small delight in hearing them use words like alligator clip, 9-volt battery, pixels, tessellation, etc.

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