

## Science Days at ND – Spring 2014

JINA hosted two schools for field trips to the University of Notre Dame during the Spring for Science Days.

This program is part of a concerted effort to increase interest in STEM careers among local students in underrepresented groups.

Within the student body at Washington High School, approximately 75% receive assistance with school lunches and more than 70% are Hispanic, African American, or multiracial.

Although the graduate rate is nearly 90%, less than 40% pass the ISTEP.

This year, 75 students participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual JINA field trip for WHS. Students toured the Nuclear Science Lab, saw an astronomy presentation in the DVT, talked about careers in physics, and had a team challenge to build ping pong catapults from household supplies such as craft sticks and rubber bands.

*I learned how to make a catapult and it was fun and I learned about space and where things are.*

*It was fun learning new things and you made me more interested in science. I like science because you learn things and I want to know things that even aren't important...*

Built on the success of the WHS field trip, JINA has hosted the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade class from Jackson Intermediate School for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year. Within their student body, approximately 50% are Hispanic, African American, or multiracial, 70% receive lunch assistance, and 25% are in Special Education courses. In addition to the DVT presentation and nuclear science lesson, the students also participated in the catapult challenge and discussed career options with scientists.

Although the DVT and pizza were the favorites for both groups, post surveys and reflections showed that most students appreciated the entire experience.



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[www.jinaweb.org/outreach/trip.html](http://www.jinaweb.org/outreach/trip.html)