What is STEM Scholars?

2017-2018 was the second year of SWIC’s STEM Scholars program. With funding from the National Science Foundation, students admitted into the program receive financial, academic and social support with the hope that these aids will help them complete bachelor’s degrees in STEM fields.

STEM Scholars moving on

Several participants graduated this spring (or are graduating in summer). These STEM Scholars are moving on to transfer institutions.

SIUC: Olivia Hood (physics), Tyler Cronin (computer science), Josh Westenberger (engineering)

SIUE: Summer Wolfe (geography), Kevin Brutto (computer science), Jasmin Ruiz (chemistry), Jack Richards (biology) and Joe McKinnon (engineering).

University of Kansas: Tasia Vickers (chemical engineering)

STEM Scholars take part in weekly study groups, as seen in the photo above of Joe McKinnon and Rachel Barge. The Scholars also take a special topics class together each semester (in the fall, they will take MATH299 Bits and Bolts and Beyond), and attend enrichment events (see page 2).

STEM Scholars win engineering competition

Participating STEM Scholars presented their solution to an engineering problem relating to the St. Louis Arch trams, and their solution outcompeted those presented by teams from Washington University in St. Louis and Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

STEM Scholars receiving the award for winning the Richard Bowser Engineering Competition on October 28, 2017 at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. From left to right: Josh Westenberger, Joe McKinnon, Caleb Gray, Tyler Cronin, Jayda Pearman, Kevin Brutto and Chandler Scott. Ana Flores also participated, but was not at the award event.
Hooray for STEM Scholars

- Kevin Brutto was awarded a NOYCE Internship for the summer from SIUE.
- Chandler Scott and Josh Westenberger volunteered at the annual WYSE competition at SWIC.
- Olivia Hood won both a Transfer Scholarship and a Leadership Development Program Scholarship at SIUC.
- Josh Westenberger was awarded both the Excellence Scholarship and a position in Energy Leaders of the Future program at SIUC.
- Tyler Cronin received a Housing Scholarship at SIUC.

Thanks
We thank the following faculty and staff for their help with the STEM Scholar program:

Faculty mentors: Alicia Hauer, Carmen Shepard, Connie Park, David Collins, Jaime Manche, Jennifer Simonton, Jessica Wright, Keven Hansen, Lee Brendel, Michael Bialas, Mitch Robertson, Randi Papke, Stan Hatfield, Trent Crews, Jessica Evans and the other great people in Financial Aid, Brandi Brown Harris, and the rest of the Advising department, Sue McClure, and her staff in the Success Center, Jim Haverstick and PI&M

Advisory committee members: Joyce Ray, Bob Weck, Dave Collins, Jennifer Simonton, Sue McClure, Katie Doughty and other people in Enrollment Services who help advertise the program

Project managers: Joy Branlund and Chris Farmer

Enrichment events

STEM Scholars are required to attend enrichment events that introduce them to working scientists and engineers in the St. Louis region. During the 2017-2018 school year, the STEM Scholars:

- Took a backstage tour to see the machinery that drives trams at the St. Louis Arch.
- The participants of the Bowser Engineering Competition attended the Founder’s Breakfast and award ceremony.
- Attended a screening of the film Dream Big and a Q&A with a panel of civil engineers working in the region.
- Toured labs in St. Louis’ FDA.
- Visited high schools to promote the STEM Scholars program.

Other STEM Scholars Activities

As part of their PHYS 299 class (The Scientific Enterprise), students completed a scientific research project, and participated in a poster session during their final exam time. Shown here from left to right are Emily Reese, Aaron Courtland, Dylan Wilson and Kevin Brutto.

Please help spread the word

Have you met a student who seems excited about STEM but discouraged about pursuing a STEM career? If so, encourage them to apply to our program.

Applications are due March 1 for the 2019-2020 group. https://www.swic.edu/academics/academic-divisions/math-sciences/stem-scholar-program/

*This might be because they don’t know about STEM careers, don’t think they have the background to make it in STEM, don’t think they have the money to pay for years and years of school, don’t know any STEM professionals (or any STEM professionals that look like them), or think they aren’t good enough to be successful.