

Engaging Students with Chemistry

Outcome: Ten middle and high school students completed a week-long summer science program at Louisiana Tech University. Students toured research labs, built a hydrogen-powered car, investigated the chemistry behind the working of batteries, and built and studied properties of molecules on computers.

Impact/benefit: The program increased student awareness and interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields through hands-on activities about popular science issues such as energy generation, storage, and conversion.

Explanation: Engaging students in hands-on, collaborative learning experiences is useful for encouraging students of all educational backgrounds and income levels to consider careers in STEM fields. Interacting with STEM professionals and participating in activities with clear applications for the real world helps drive student interest.

