

What's New at CCC for Tuesday June 4, 2002

NASA Sponsors Summer Youth Program at Daley College

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(Chicago, IL -- May 30, 2002) - Richard J. Daley College will conduct its 2002 Chicago Pre-freshman Engineering Program (PREP) starting June 24, 2002. PREP is a mathematics-based program with the objective of developing abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills.

Last summer, 21 students in the PREP I program earned above 90% on the Logic post-test, while four earned a perfect score. Four Prep II participants scored above 83% on the Physics post-test and one of the students solved 93% of the questions correctly. All six PREP III graduates earned above 87% on the Statistics post-test and two students earned perfect scores.

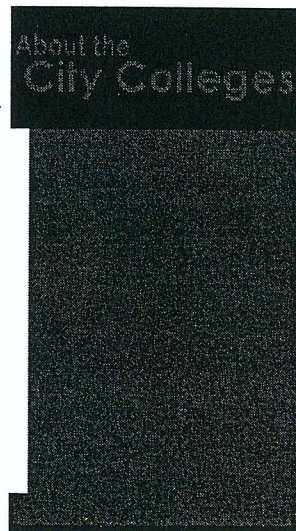
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) funds Chicago PREP through Proyecto Access, a consortium of Hispanic serving institutions. The Proyecto Access grant was awarded to the University of Texas at San Antonio. Ten sites across the country have been funded to replicate the San Antonio TexPREP model. At each level, participants are evaluated with an entrance and closing exam.

"Through Chicago PREP we hope to increase the number of Chicago students who succeed academically and professionally in Math, Science and Engineering by reaching them in their early year," said Dr. Mark Warden, interim president of Daley College.

The 2002 Chicago PREP Program will target 120 applicants from middle and high schools. In 2001, Daley PREP served 124 students. Six have graduated and 110 are eligible to continue the PREP II and PREP III course study. This year, 20 staff members consisting of college faculty, high school and middle school teachers, and program mentors (undergraduate engineering and science majors) will assist students in completing the course.

"This is not an easy way for these students to spend their summer," notes Dr. Vali Siadat, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Daley College, who directs the program. "But PREP has proven to be an excellent way to for the students to prepare for high school and, ultimately, for college programs in technology, engineering, and science."

With only 60 to 80 spots available competition is fierce. To be



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considered students must possess a "B" average or better, live within commuting distance of the institution and preference is given to students of low-income households. The total cost for the program per student is \$2,000.

Financial aid and in-kind support is provided by NASA, Daley College, local school districts, private companies, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (MOWD) Summer Youth Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program, and other public and private sector agencies. For more information, contact M. Vali Siadat, Ph.D. of the Department of Mathematics at Daley College at (773) 838-7632.

Daley College is one of the seven City Colleges of Chicago which provide four essential services: Liberal Arts Education (associate degrees and certificates); Occupational Education (workforce training); Adult Education (GED, ESL, ABE) and Continuing Education (programs that add value to the quality of life). The other City Colleges of Chicago are: Olive-Harvey College, Malcolm X College, Harold Washington College, Wright College, Truman College and Kennedy-King College.

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