

# SCOTTSDALE-ASHBURN INDEPENDENT

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## PREP Program

Have you noticed how quickly the future becomes today? We have to start early just to catch up. This summer, seventh grade students enrolling in a special program at Daley College may be taking the first step to graduating college with a B.S. in engineering or science in the year 2011.

Again this summer, Daley College will conduct its NASA-sponsored 2002 Chicago Pre-freshman Engineering Program, Proyecto Access ("PREP"), starting June 24th. PREP is a mathematics-based program with the objective of developing abstract reasoning and problem-solving skills of middle-school and high school students, especially targeting those from low income and minority families. The Daley program is one of ten in the nation, developed locally but underwritten by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The PREP program enrolls about 120 students who qualify on the basis of their grades and recommendations. "This is not an easy way for these students to spend their summer," notes Dr. Vali Siadat, chairman of the Dept. of Mathematics at Daley College, who directs the program. "But PREP has proven to be an excellent way for the younger students to prepare for high school and, ultimately, for college programs in technology, engineering and science."

"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 years," said Dr. Mark Warden, interim president of Daley College.

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. Dept. of Agriculture Summer Food Service Program, and other public and private sector agencies. For more information, contact Siadat at Daley College at (773) 838-7632.