National Girls Collaborative Project

STEM Equity in Practice

Reflecting on a Mini-Grant Partnership

November 19, 2014
Agenda

• NGCP Overview
• Reflection on a Mini-Grant Partnership
  – Presenter and Program Introductions
  – Lessons Learned from the Mini-Grant
  – Strategies for working with girls of color
• Questions and Answers
NGCP Vision

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) brings together organizations that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
NGCP Goals: Maximize Access to Shared Resources

Building a Network Through Collaboration

- **Girl Scout Council**: Wants to host STEM program for girls but their facilities are booked and they are looking for exciting hands-on activities.
  - **NEED**: Facility, exciting hands-on activities, role models to deliver activities
  - **RESOURCE**: Access to girls

- **Science Museum**: Looking for ways to attract more Latino, African American, and American Indian visitors.
  - **NEED**: Access to girls, particularly under-represented girls
  - **RESOURCE**: Facility, exciting hands-on activities

- **University**: A college chapter female engineering students wants to get involved in bringing more girls into the profession.
  - **NEED**: Access to girls, exciting hands-on activities
  - **RESOURCE**: Role models to inspire girls

- **Girls Inc.**: An after-school program for middle school girls needs ideas for how to offer motivating and engaging STEM experiences.
  - **NEED**: Exciting hands-on activities, role models
  - **RESOURCE**: Transportation to the event

During NanoDays (week-long celebration of nanotechnology), the science museum hosted a STEM Expo and lunch with role models and engineering students for an audience of 100 Latina mothers and daughters from local Girl Scout troops and Girls Inc. members. Activities from SciGirls and NISE Network (nanotech) engaged girls in hands-on activities, introduced girls and their mothers to local STEM role models, and informed mothers about the educational pipeline for STEM opportunities for their daughters.
NGCP Goals: Strengthening Capacity with Exemplary Practices
NGCP Goals: Gender Equity in STEM
STEM EQUITY IN PRACTICE: REFLECTING ON A MINI-GRANT PARTNERSHIP

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Janelle M. Johnson, PhD
November 19th, 2014
“Women of color routinely face discrimination and must defy preconceptions about whether they belong in the STEM disciplines” (Reyes, 2011; p. 245).
TOPICS

- Background of each organization
  - Dr. Justina Ford Institute
  - Equity Assistance Center
- The mini grant
  - Summer science intensive
  - Community engagement
- Lessons to share
  - Myths & Strengths
  - Strengthening partnerships
- Working with girls of color
DR. JUSTINA FORD STEM INSTITUTE

- Who was Dr. Justina Ford?
- Her legacy
  - Colorado
  - Her home
  - Spirit of overcoming obstacles
Dr. Justina Ford STEM Institute

Mission
- video

Three components
- Supporting girls of color into a pipeline of STEM careers
- Parents as partners
- STEM Connect
Established after Civil Rights Act of 1964

Focus on race, gender, national origin

10 centers

Serve public K-12 schools

Housed at Metropolitan State University of Denver

Close “achievement gap”
THE MINI GRANT

- NGCP directory (CO)
- Week-long summer science intensive
- “Science Begins with Me”
- Focus on HEAL (healthy eating/active living)
- Flexibility
- Near peer mentors and STEM coaches
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Closing activity
- Data from the girls
- Worked in teams
- Neighborhood store
- Shared with community members
- Fielded questions
SOME MYTHS ABOUT GIRLS OF COLOR IN STEM

- They’re not engaged
- They don’t have an interest in STEM
- Limited economic resources mean lacking ability
- They have no support at home
MORE MYTHS ABOUT GIRLS OF COLOR IN STEM

- They don’t have the background to build on
- They don’t know how to work in groups
- They’re not going to go to college
STRENGTHS

- Varied perspectives
- Group dynamics
- Ability to navigate
- Resilience
- Cultural traditions and norms as funds of knowledge
EQUITY TO SUPPORT STEM WITH GIRLS OF COLOR

- Building on our historical foundations and honoring legacies
- Strategies & spaces for participation
- Connect curriculum with their lives
- Utilize an asset lens
- Care and connect
- High expectations
- Push beyond push-back
- Talk about identity
STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

- Shared leadership
  - Articulate roles
- Respect for strengths and what each organization brings
- Focus on outcomes over individuals
- Open to dialogue about interculturality
- Direct communication throughout
TO SUM UP...

- It’s not just the technical skills
- Character building—knowing how to navigate, advocate, and propagate
- Be wary of “best practices”
- Support and strengthen identity
- *Essential* skills
- Move into industries and persist in the long term
UBUNTU

I am because we are; we are because I am.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

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Questions?
Get Involved
Get Involved
Get Involved

In This Issue
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FabFems Spotlight
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FabFems

NGCP Updates
Why Do You Love NGCP?
We often hear from you, our community, the phrase "I love NGCP..." and it means so much to us! This month NGCP is turning 12 and to celebrate we are taking collaboration love viral! Share why you love NGCP on social media, using the hashtag #LOVENGCP.
What does NGCP mean to you?

I♥NGCP

NGCP Supports Science STARS Blogging Project
Science STARS, featured in the September 5th webinar, received NGCP mini-grant funding to produce a series of blog posts written by Science STARS students. STARS Blog Science offers a unique look into the lives of a group of girls and how they think about science.

Collaborative Network Activities
Help our Collaboratives connect and serve local programs.
Please let your colleagues know about these events happening around the United States. Each month we will send out a call to highlight the programming in our Collaborative network.

Live from New York, it's the new NY STEAM Girls Collaborative!
Help NY STEAM Girls Collaborative spread the word to New York based organizations that are committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in STEM by joining their e-newsletter distribution list and adding your...