



MISSION

Since its inception in 2009, the mission of STEP has been to introduce students to a multitude of career opportunities, helping inner city students identify the relevance of continuing their education and to engage Corporate Partners in the process of providing students access to real world work environments.

Students

By facilitating tours to a variety of workplace environments, STEP exposes high school students to the opportunities that await them, allowing them to see the relevance of continuing their education

Training

STEP trains students to develop the skills required to initiate professional relationships while helping them to explore career paths that they never knew existed

Engagement

STEP facilitates engagement between youth and professionals in a model that is highly effective and easily managed for companies and students

Partnerships

STEP partners with companies and other non-profits committed to bridging the gap between professionals and the next generation of business leaders



Stebbs Schinnerer of Paper Fortress Film Company visits STEP at the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science



OUR STUDENTS

During the 2010-2011 school year 86 students from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers participated in 350 individual tours with 25 major corporations in the Greater Boston Area.



"The most important thing that I have learned from STEP is that you can start with nothing and become something."

Jallia C.



"This tour changed my ideas about what I think I want for a career by making me think of doing something in the technology field."

Denise P.
(Microsoft)



"It made me realize that accounting is really essential to every company, so it just made me more enthusiastic about becoming one."

Genesis P.
(Plymouth Rock Assurance)



"The whole program opened my eyes and my mind to a variety of career choices."

Lena P.



"This tour actually helped me figure out that I would want to do something with sports and management."

Evander L.
(Boston Celtics)

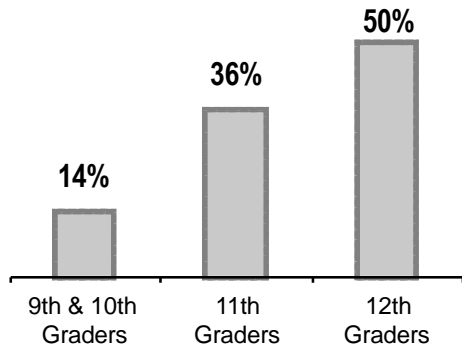


"This tour did change my idea about what I want from a career. I would like to work in a company that is focusing not only on raising money but bettering the world through their work."

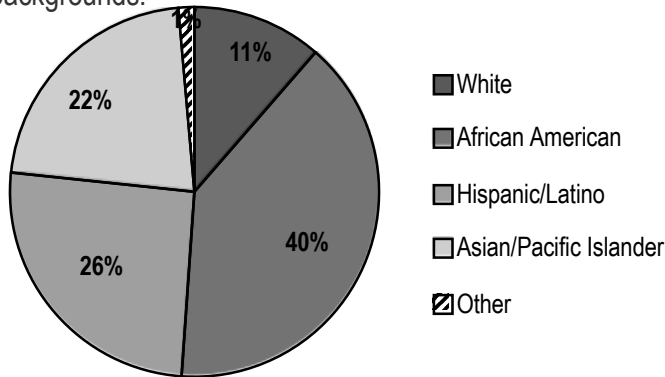
Christina P.
(Amory Architects)

Student Profile

During the 2010-2011 school year 86 students from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science and the Edward M. Kennedy Academy participated in the STEP program. Our students, 55 of who are female and 31 of who are male, are primarily juniors and seniors:



Most of STEP's students attend the John D. O'Bryant School, a school comprised of students from diverse backgrounds.

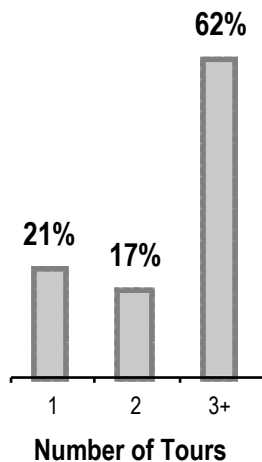


Source: National Center for Educational Statistics; John D. O'Bryant School

Corporate Tours

This year, our 86 students participated in 350 tours with over 25 major corporations in the Greater Boston Area for a combined total of 525 tour hours!

Almost two-thirds (62%) of our students completed at least 3 tours, 17% completed 2 tours and 21% completed 1 tour.

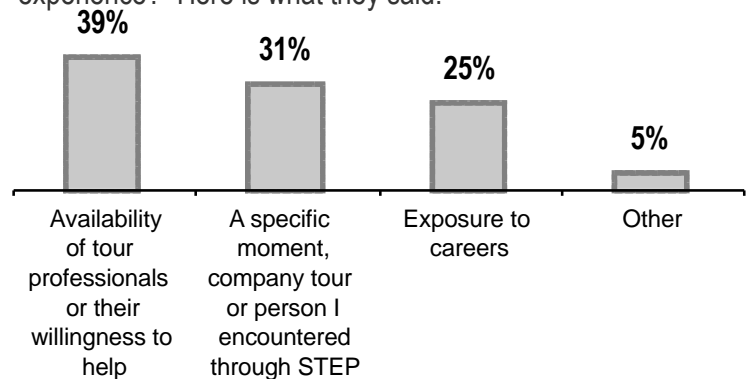


Our Results

In order to begin measuring STEP's impact, we conducted a survey of students at the O'Bryant School who participated in STEP in Spring 2010, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011. Overall, 78% of our students completed the survey. Here is what we learned:

- 85% of the students learned about jobs and careers that they never knew existed
- Four out of five (81%) students believe that they have gained experience that will help them in future interview and work situations
- Almost 75% of students feel as if they got a better idea of the kind of career that they want
- 70% of students who know or have met someone with a job that they would like in the future say that they met that person through STEP
- 100% of surveyed students would recommend STEP to their peers

STEP believes that exposing students to business opportunities can inspire them to reach higher in their educational and career goals, so we asked our students: "What was the most inspirational part of your STEP experience?" Here is what they said:



When asked about the most important thing that they learned from STEP, 37% of students cited motivation/hard work pays off, 30% cited fundamentals of building a professional relationship (commitment, preparation and follow-through) and 16% of students selected exposure to professionalism or specific advice from a tour professional. (The remaining students selected "other".)

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



Johnny Earle – Johnny Cupcakes
STEP: Inspiration in Action

Thanks to STEP's 25 corporate partners in the Greater Boston Area, our 86 students were exposed to a variety of work environments ranging from an architecture firm to an insurance company to a franchise retail establishment. Through tours of our partners' workplaces, our students learned important skills such as how to ask well-informed questions, how to introduce themselves professionally and how to build networks. Undoubtedly, these experiences have helped to open our students' minds to a multitude of new opportunities.

Here's what our Corporate Partners have to say about STEP:

"Congratulations on another successful year, and for changing the lives of so many deserving kids. You've underscored the importance of their education, shown them what is possible and believed in them so they can believe in themselves."

-Peter Tedeschi,
Tedeschi Foods

"We had SUCH a great time yesterday! Jen, Dan, and I all can't wait until the next visit...! We were all so impressed - we really can't wait until next time and hopefully more kids will come...we were sad when it had to end!"

-Zoe, Continuum

"It is especially meaningful for us to be able to help further a program that exposes high school students to various careers, something we value as a part of our co-op program."

-Nellie, NS4G Foundation

"It was great to have STEP back with a fresh set of students! It's not often that we get to share what we do with others so it was definitely refreshing to be able to share our passions with a genuinely interested crowd."

-Arvin, Essential Design

Get in
STEP

STEP is a non-profit 503(c) organization. For more information, please contact info@stepinspire.org or visit our website stepinspire.org.