AD Bojan Ljubenko

- Number of applicants: 3 (1 inquired after deadline and decided not to apply).
- Number of awardees (if they have been awarded): 3
- Demographics: 2 Female, White and 1 Female African American
- Did we meet or exceed the goals of the strategic plan for your program? Do you have any concerns?: Yes. I wonder if we can allocate more money?
- Highlight one project that was funded through your budget:

Holmes Aidan BioPharmaceutical Technology Center Institute $5,000 / $18,161 Space Explorers: A Summer Program for Middle School Students

Enrollment is limited to 16 students, entering grades 6-8 in fall 2023. Students will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and many of the students will have attended the program in previous years, which is encouraged as each program explores a different theme. Typically, the program draws at least as many girls as boys, and past participants have included students with physical disabilities. Over 80% of past participants have been members of underrepresented groups including Black and Latinx students, and we will recruit with the goal of obtaining similar demographics this year. Many past participants received a waiver of all associated fees. To ensure strong participation by students from underserved/underrepresented groups, we will continue to work with a variety of community organizations that serve these populations in addition to networking with families who have participated in the program and area schools.


Our project aligns with the Special Initiatives Program as it is an informal education project that aims to reach a more diverse population and encourage them to learn about and pursue STEM. This particular project aims to reach the Spanish-speaking population of Waukesha and the surrounding communities. Hispanic and Latinx communities have historically been underrepresented in STEM. While the Hispanic population makes up 17% of the US workforce, they only make up 8% of the US STEM workforce. The Horwitz-DeRemer Planetarium is committed to doing our part in closing this gap by providing education and outreach in Spanish in hopes to encourage and inspire our students to pursue STEM.
The Embedded Teacher Film Project will support Wisconsin’s Model Academic Standards for Science.

Wisconsin’s Science Standards document states that science is “considered an essential part of PK – 12th grade education...Science education supports the overall goal of helping all students become college and career ready.”

Scientific literacy is considered vital to students understanding the world around us.

The film will highlight research of Murali’s class as they pursue their experiments in accordance with specific standards for grades 6 – 8.

These are expected to encompass:

Science and Engineering Practices:

Standard SCI.SEP.1, 2, 3, 4 applicable to 6 – 8 grade levels
Standard SCI.SEP 6
Standard SCI.PS2
Standard ESS1 & 2