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Pontiac students to receive enhanced STEM programming from Cranbrook Institute of Science through grants and collaboration from Williams International and the City of Pontiac

Bloomfield Hills, Mich. Feb. 28, 2019 – An immersive STEM-based learning experience will be launched to pre-kindergarten through 12th graders in the City of Pontiac by [Cranbrook Institute of Science](#) during the current and into the next academic year. The Institute of Science is able to bring hands-on, science curriculums and enrichment programs to middle and high-school aged Pontiac students and youth involved with the Pontiac Youth Recreation & Enrichment Center through grants from [Williams International](#), that recently moved its headquarters to Pontiac last July. Initially, the grants funded city-wide after-school programs, but after collaborating with city officials it was expanded to include STEM offerings to the School District of the City of Pontiac.

“As a new neighbor in the Pontiac community, we are committed to developing the next generation of skilled professionals by supporting students and teachers through STEM,” said Gregg Williams, chairman, president and CEO of Williams International and a graduate of Cranbrook Schools. “We are leveraging the expertise of the Institute’s educators and their resources to bring supplemental science programs to Pontiac students, growing their interest in STEM fields. By doing so we are creating a pipeline for future engineers and technicians and, at the same time, enriching the students’ educational experience. I want to thank Pontiac Mayor Dr. Deirdre Waterman for the strong support she and her team provided to this initiative.”

This educational partnership between Cranbrook Institute of Science, the City of Pontiac and the Pontiac School District will build upon the programming at the Pontiac Youth Recreation & Enrichment Center and the district’s current curriculum of science, technology, engineering and mathematics with interactive, customized sessions. Institute of Science educators will join teachers in classrooms, providing students with in-depth lessons that are extensions of their current curriculum, following state standards.

“I’m happy to be able to offer this dynamic programming at the Youth Recreation & Enrichment Center and deliver programs designed for youth that lift their horizons, develop their talents and explore their potential,” said Dr. Waterman. “I’m also thrilled and grateful that our negotiations enabled programs to be expanded to Pontiac Schools to complement our after-school enrichment activities. The partnerships with Williams International and Cranbrook Institute of Science will help us strengthen collaboration between our schools and the community to ensure Pontiac youth are getting the skills they need to compete for quality jobs, and helps connect students with mentors working in STEM fields. I will continue to ensure STEM programs remain a top priority so our youth have the tools they need to succeed in a global economy.”

Grant initiatives include: Intensive after-school and in-classroom-based STEM programming for 14 weeks to take place during the grant period, and field trips for middle school students; summer internships for more than 40 high school students at the Institute of Science and family days at the Institute for the interns and their families; access to the Institute’s Acheson Mobile Planetarium; and professional development for Pontiac educators to support long-term sustainability of STEM-related content.



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“The Pontiac School District welcomes the opportunity to partner with Williams International and Cranbrook Institute of Science,” said Dr. Kimberly Leverette, assistant superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction for the Pontiac School District. “This partnership affords our students and staff the unique ability to engage in high levels of science learning and inquiry, giving our students the tools to foster a deeper understanding and interest in STEM disciplines.”

Additionally, Pontiac residents can enjoy complimentary general admission to the Institute of Science and 24 multi-use Galactic level memberships to the Institute of Science will be available to teachers and students in the Pontiac school district and their families during the grant period.

“The goal of outreach programs at the Institute, and the intent of this partnership, is to excite, educate and motivate young learners to exceed in STEM subjects and to explore careers in related fields,” said Michael D. Stafford, Ph.D., director at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

The science, technology, engineering and mathematics programming will reach up to 600 students in Pontiac. The grant period runs from Feb. 1 through Dec. 31, 2019, with after-school and in-classroom programming being provided during that time.

About Williams International

Williams International is the world leader in design, development and production of small gas turbine engines. The continuous pursuit of innovative ideas has led Williams International to introduce successful products and services that have changed the aerospace industry and led to the company's rapid growth and new expansion in Pontiac. Located at 2000 Centerpoint Parkway, Williams International's new 600,000 square foot World Headquarters is a state-of-the-art product development, product support and advanced production manufacturing facility. Williams also acquired 140 acres of vacant land adjacent to the new Headquarters to enable future planned expansion of its manufacturing facilities.

About Cranbrook Institute of Science

*Cranbrook Institute of Science, Michigan's Museum of Natural History, is part of the world-renowned Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The museum is open Tuesday - Thursday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday noon-4 p.m. Regular admission is \$13 for adults and \$9.50 for children 2-12 and senior citizens (65+); children under 2 and members are admitted free. Courtesy of MASCO Corporation Foundation, admission is **free** after 5 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Other Fridays and all Saturdays after 5 p.m. admission is reduced to \$6.50 for adults and \$5.50 for children 2-12 and senior citizens; children under 2 and members are admitted free. For information about becoming a member of Cranbrook Institute of Science, call (248) 645-3200 or visit <http://science.cranbrook.edu>.*

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