

News from Leap Learning Systems

August 2009

Summer Learning—Language for Scholars

2009 marks Leap Learning Systems most active summer to-date! The **Language for Scholars** program reached nearly 400 middle and high school students, helping them learn essential, real-world communication skills that are beneficial in school and in the work place.



Students pose before presenting debate topics

their speaking skills.

Commented one summer participant, "I will use my Academic

English skills to speak more confidently and make people believe in what I have to say."

Leap continued to work with partners Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund, Chicago International Charter School and Chicago State, while adding new partner Link Unlimited.

Also new this summer was the premiere "friends and family" session, which included students

related to the organization through staff and board members, and two community organizations, Youth Crossroads and Metro Squash.

Special thanks to the Multicultural Marketing Dept. at DePaul University for hosting us!

Contact us for more information about bringing LFS to your school or agency.



A DMSF scholar poses with guest speaker Acting Commissioner Ayala-Bermejo

What's New

Language Through Science will kick off this year in October. It's not too late to sign up! Call 312.578.1255 for additional info.

Donate Today!

Help provide Leap programs to new students and teachers this fall. See insert for ways to give.

Visit us on-line for up to date news:

www.leaplearningsystems.org

Leap's After School Program Inspires Young Poets

Leap Professional Development Coach Bev Applebaum and the staff at the Circle for Success after-school program in Austin, wrapped up the school year by organizing the First Annual Circle for Success Poetry Slam. Students that participated attend Catalyst Charter School.

Using a format from Leap's After School Enrichment (LASER) Program, students were encour-

aged to write or select a poem to perform at the poetry slam. Staff helped them to practice for their performances and guided them on using "Leap Speech Goals" - effective communication skills that helped them maintain optimal enunciation, body posture and expressive communication skills.

Poems presented on the day of the event included simple nursery

rhymes, raps, and performances accompanied by music and dance.

The event was high energy and filled with pride for students and their families.

"The feeling of unity and the sense of accomplishment were thick in the air," stated Ms. Applebaum.



LASER students pose with programs from the Circle for Success poetry slam



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Suite 812
Chicago, IL 60603

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Leap programs are rewarding for students *and* teachers

Attention Educators and Site Directors!

Leap Learning Systems offers programs that are uniquely designed for both teachers *and* students. Teachers receive high quality professional development training right in their classroom, while students engage in fun, hands-on enrichment activities.

No other organization brings the depth or quality of literacy and language development programming that is Leap's trademark.

Leap offers programs designed and proven to build

fundamental language, reading and communication skills of students from preschool through high school. All programs can be adapted to fill specific needs. *For more information contact us today.*

New Partner

Leap partnered with new site Laurance Armour Day School at Rush University Medical Center to deliver Language Through Science this summer.

Staff Transitions

We bid farewell to Leap Professional Development Coach **Abbie Olszewski** as she be-

gins her doctoral degree in speech/language pathology at the University of Utah this fall. Best of luck Abbie!

Special thanks to **Sherry Gunn** and **Kaitlyn Peterson** for their hard work as interns this summer.

Do you know a college student interested in volunteering? Leap Learning Systems is a great way to gain hands-on work experience while making a difference in the community. Visit our volunteer page on-line for ways to get involved.