



## **UWEX AmeriCorps\*VISTA Success Story**

### **College for Kids**

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Summer VISTA Members**



This summer a new partnership was forged with the UW-Richland Continuing Education Program. College for Kids is an educational enrichment program designed for students entering grades four, five or six, in the fall. The program provides alternative and advanced experiences for children identified by their local school as academically or creatively talented. Students may select from over two dozen different course options. Class topics span all disciplines and include foreign languages, biological and physical sciences, technology, nutrition, theatre, the visual arts, sports, and more!

Continuing Education has hosted a College for Kids Program for over ten years and extended their programming efforts by adding Middle School University. Middle School "U" is a fast-paced, hands-on, week-long enrichment experience geared toward academically motivated and creatively talented students entering grades six, seven, or eight in the fall. Course opportunities included many science courses such as Mission to Mars, Black Holes, Space Warps and other Wonders of Modern Science, Biodiversity in our Changing World, and DNA: The Blueprint of Life. Some of the sixth grade students were eligible and participated in both programs. College for Kids was held in the morning and Middle School University followed in the afternoon.

As summer Vista members, one of our roles was to generate ideas for activities for the thirty-nine sixth grade students who stayed for lunch time between the two programs. We utilized 4-H Youth Development educational materials to develop lesson plans that were used this summer and will be available for future efforts. This also gave us the opportunity to introduce youth to

the 4-H Youth Development Program and help the youth understand how the things they learned at College for Kids and Middle School University could fit into the 4-H Program. An art project was done with the youth to introduce the fine arts projects to the youth participants. These lesson plans were also developed utilizing 4-H Youth Development materials.

Another opportunity to integrate the 4-H Program into these Continuing Education Programs was to promote 4-H to all the youth participating in the week long programs. 4-H was promoted during snack times via posters and personal contacts. We also went to every classroom and talked about 4-H and each participant received a brochure which we developed to take home. We were able to reach over five hundred youth through this partnership with UW-Richland Continuing Education and the Richland County 4-H Program.