

# To Explore Camp



## *Empowering Excellence thru Exploration*

To Explore Camp was the brainchild of Anissa McLendon and sponsored by Kamál Academy, an interfaith STEAM school in Chapel Hill. It aimed to provide middle school students of color with activities and skills in the Arts and STEM fields, necessary to be productive citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. It was held July 30<sup>th</sup> through Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, from 9:00 am to 3:00pm each day at St. Paul A.M.E. Church and various sites throughout the community. We had 17 students from CHCCS and Kamál Academy.

The camp expanded the students' sense of what's possible for them through interaction with African American scientists, both in person and featuring innovators from history. We received a special visit from Willie Deese who shared some of his experiences as a President of Merck Manufacturing Division, and the students were inspired by his insights on success and determination. There was a focus on exploring science/technology on a local level by seeing a variety of the ways they're utilized by community workers: police, firefighters, biomedicine in RTP, public works and transportation. Camp nurtured the students' curiosity, observation and imagination with hands-on experiences of forensics, poetry/spoken word, engineering design, math, and videography.

Many thanks to the organizations and individuals who made the camp possible through their generous support:

St. Paul A.M.E. Church  
Willie Deese  
Public School Foundation  
Durham Tech.  
Carrboro Police Dept.  
Harris Teeter  
Carrabba's Italian Grill  
Chapel Hill Fire Dept.  
Empowerment, Inc.

Jeanne Cosmey, Biogen  
Chapel Hill Public Works  
Tommy Tucker  
Dianne Jackson  
Justin Foster  
Zion Williams  
Domino's Pizza  
Mae McLendon  
Anthony Dunn

Russell Blackwell  
Ted Edwards  
Robin McMahan  
Sharon Davis  
IP3  
Jimmy Perry  
Officer Sheleatha Wright-  
Quick of CHPD  
Lee Moavenzadeh

# Exploring & Experimentation



*Engineering challenges, like creating the strongest tower using only paper and tape, strengthened problem-solving skills.*



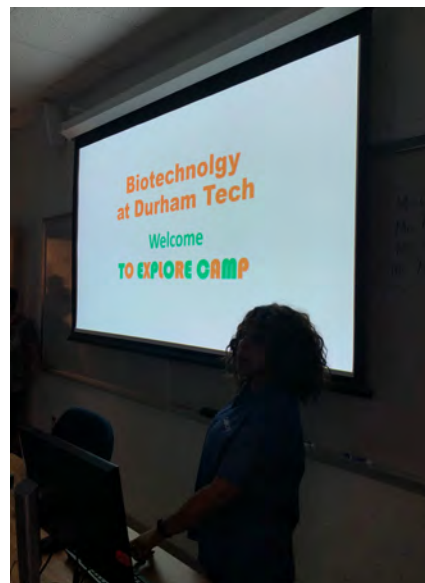
*We began each morning with a Black History Moment – learning about important scientists, inventors, artists, and innovators like Lewis Lattimer, Willie Deese, Tuskegee Airmen, Maya Angelou, Garrett Morgan, Annie Easley, Langston Hughes, Bessie Coleman, and Madam C.J. Walker.*



*The Chapel Hill Fire Department taught us about their fire fighting technology and guided us through the video production of several fire safety PSAs.*



*During breaks, we played cooperative games outside. We took a field trip to Durham Tech's Biotechnology Center, where we learned about germs and all the precautions that are part of creating a "clean room".*



*We put some of our new chromatography skills to work and made t-shirts.*



# Excitement & Excellence!



*Chapel Hill Police Department had us apply some forensic skills to solving a crime.*

*Biogen sent all the supplies and lab worksheets for conducting a reverse phase chromatography experiment.*

*Willie Deese encouraged the youth to dream big and work hard with discipline to make those dreams a reality.*

*Our field trip to the Chapel Hill Public Works Dept. showed us just how many ways our community relies on technology for basic services.*

