STEM Initiatives and Breakfast of Science Champions

Purpose
Have you ever wanted to see how the brain works, or how to run a superconductor train? At STEM Initiatives’ Breakfast of Science Champions, middle school students learn these things and more. Students come to OSU for a morning of hands-on exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math problems. They learn about the work conducted by various labs and then participate in activities and experiments reflecting the lab’s work.

Impact
Approximately 400 students participated in the Breakfast of Science Champions events held in February. They visited 13 different labs across OSU.

Activities included flying flight simulators at the OSU Airport, using liquid nitrogen-frozen bananas as hammers at the Center for Emergent Materials, and dissecting cow eyes at the College of Optometry.

The first Breakfast of Science Champions event was held in 1998. STEM Initiatives has run the event since 2011 and has seen consistently increasing interest in involvement.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved
College of Arts and Sciences, STEM Initiatives
Biological Sciences Greenhouse
Byrd Polar Research Center
Center for Applied Plant Sciences
Center for Aviation Studies
Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging
Center for Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics
Center for Emergent Materials
College of Nursing
College of Optometry
Department of Astronomy
Department of Food, Agricultural, and Biological Engineering
Department of Physics
Department of Food Science and Technology
Insect Molecular Genetics
Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center
Neuroscience
Ohio 4-H Center/EcoBot Challenge
Ohio State Planetarium
Undergraduate Research Lab in Behavioral Ecology
Women in Engineering Program

Community Partners Involved
Columbus City Schools
The Metro School

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