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[Tech Camp]

CyberCity prepares teens for college

Tech camp program preps underrepresented youth

By Toni Mehling

JMU's nationally recognized CyberCity technology program hosted underrepresented teenagers and their high-school teachers on campus June 24–27.

The tech-intensive week "sends a strong message to underrepresented students interested in business or technology majors," says Daphyne Saunders Thomas, CyberCity co-creator and Adolph Coors business professor of finance and business law. "We want to let students know that they can be successful studying at a university like JMU."

The program has received numerous awards since its inception two years ago, including a 2008 President's Award for Diversity from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology and two awards from the Shenandoah Valley Technology Council for innovation in education.

CyberCity participants live on campus to get a taste of college life. Student activities include programming in secure code, designing a Web site, installing a secure wireless

JMU President Linwood H. Rose (right) talks to participants in JMU's 2009 CyberCity program. The tech camp prepares economically and socially underrepresented teens for college life.

Like many JMU programs, CyberCity's tech camp is a collaborative effort among the College of Business, College of Education, admissions office and JMU's Outreach and Engagement. Numerous scholarships have been awarded to area teens.

network, examining ethical issues in information technology, and practicing business protocol and dining etiquette.

Teacher activities include learning to teach all of the concepts presented to students, joining an online community of teachers to share ideas, and creating videos and podcasts of camp activities.

Nearly 40 participants in Virginia have been selected to receive full scholarships to the CyberCity program.

JMU's College of Business, the CoB Executive Advisory Council and individual donors fund the scholarships.

JMU's Outreach and Engagement, the College of Education and Office of Admissions also partner in the program. M

✳ Learn more at http://cybercity.jmu.edu.

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