

UNIVERSITY-ASSISTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Educational Pipeline Program

University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Our Space

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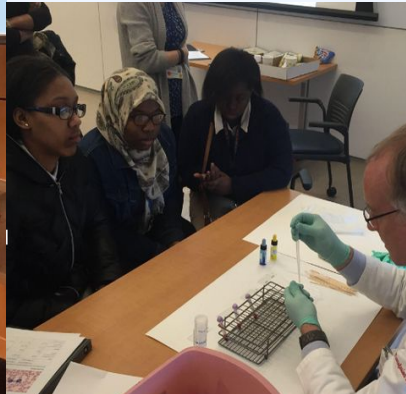
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Netter Center
for Community Partnerships
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Educational Pipeline Program

@epp_penn



What is EPP?

A comprehensive four-year program designed for students in grades 9-12 at West Philadelphia schools (Robeson, Sayre, West, and Shoemaker) that have expressed interest in science or healthcare careers

The program runs year round and has distinct components during the fall, spring, and summer.



Sustained Partnerships



Roy and Diana Vagelos Program
in Life Sciences and Management
Arts & Sciences • Wharton



Principles of Community

- 1. Become Knowledgeable about the Community**
- 2. Establish Relationship and Build Trust**
- 3. Partner with the Community**
- 4. Collective Self-determination**
- 5. Recognize and Respect Diversity within the Community and the Partnership**
- 6. Be Clear and Transparent about the Purpose of Goals**
- 7. Sustained by Identifying and Mobilizing Community Assets and Strengths**
- 8. Long Term Commitment**
- 9. Continual Reflection/Accountability and Assessment of Programming**

Community Engagement Continuum



Penn Vet Pipeline Cohort



- Frames the Education Pipeline to a One Health model, engaging 9th graders
- Assistant Director of Outreach Education works with teacher partners to support their curriculum
- Works with undergraduate TA's to build and facilitate weekly lessons and activities
- Spring Pipeline with Vet Student Coordinators

Fall Pipeline

In the Field: Exploring Careers in Science and Healthcare



In the classroom: Enrichment and Mentorship



Spring Pipeline

- High school students spend 16 weeks after school at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.
- They learn from medical and vet students, LSM undergraduate students
- About 100 students in grades 9-12 from 4 schools participate in:
 - Hands-on science activities (e.g., dissections, CPR training)
 - Exposure to healthcare professionals and professions through field trips and guest speakers
 - Final presentations



Summer Pipeline in Partnership with Center of Public Health

- 6-week paid summer internship program for Philadelphia high school students
- Introduces interns to public health through YPAR methods and partnerships with Penn and local community activist groups
 - Topics include violence and social media, heat and air quality at Sayre High School, and teen pregnancy resources for teen parents.



Jory

Penn Undergraduate

Class of 2025

Interests include health literacy and GI

Current leadership for Pipeline GI

Participant in both Fall and Spring Pipeline



Susan

Penn Undergraduate

Class of 2025

Current leadership for Pipeline Vet

Participant in both Fall and Spring

Pipeline



Anagha

Penn undergraduate

Interests include orchestra

Current Neuro Pipeline leadership

**Participant in both fall and spring
Pipeline**





OURSPACE, a safe, inclusive space for LGBTQ+ youth

November 12, 2024



University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) Strategy



- Universities serve as the lead partner in providing sustained support
- Schools as comprehensive neighborhood centers built on partnerships that serve students, their families and other members of the community
- Democratic, participatory approach
- Serve educational, health, recreational, and social service needs of students, families and community
- Link school day and after school curriculum to solving local, real-world issues

OurSpace Mission

OurSpace, Netter Center's LGBTQIA+ programming, is collaborating with the community to help solve the issue of the limited safe spaces for queer youth, the challenges of fostering inclusivity within Philadelphia schools, and the lack of queer-inclusive and comprehensive health education to improve Philadelphia LGBTQ+ youths' quality of life.



Program Development

- Observed and expressed need (Pandemic Implications)
 - Forty-one percent of LGBTQ youth stated that COVID-19 impacted their ability to express their LGBTQ identity, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth (56%) - *The Trevor Project*
 - The Trevor Project's 2023 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ Young People found that 41% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including roughly half of transgender and nonbinary youth.
- Spring 2021 - Began Virtual Programming
- Community-Based Participatory Action Research
 - Shah Engagement Prize, Steven Chen
- Penn Student Leadership
- Penn LGBT Center Collaboration

OurSpace Programming

OurSpace is an initiative of the Netter Center that collaborates with Penn's LGBT Center to provide a safe and inclusive space for queer youth and allies across the Philadelphia District. Throughout the academic year and summer, the organization hosts events and workshops on college access and career readiness, financial literacy, health, community building, and many other topics to empower and support queer youth and allies.

In OurSpace's Sexual Health Education Program (OSHEP), Penn and high school students receive queer-inclusive and comprehensive sexual health education, develop their own curricula, and teach sexual health education to youth within Gender-Sexuality Alliances (GSAs) in Philadelphia. This after-school program educates students about sexual health using a peer-assisted/near-peer learning model.

OurSpace Partners/Collaborators

- School District of Philadelphia
- Penn LGBT Center
- The Mazzoni Center
- Attic Youth Center
- Penn Reproductive Justice (Menstrual Health Education Program)
- Dr. Andy Tan, Project Smart
- Dr. Gwendolyn Beetham, ABCS Course Collaboration

Penn Student Engagement

- Plan and Facilitate Weekly Activities
- Guide Youth-Led Participatory Action Research Projects
- Develop curriculum for professional development workshops
- Support Gender-Sexuality Alliances in West Philadelphia Schools



Program Feedback (High School Students)

- “I enjoyed it very much, i looked forward to going when i did and it was a safe space for me and i always felt more comfortable there than other places”
- “The program was educational and a safe space to share thoughts and emotions.”
- “Affirmative sex Ed is awesome, I wish I learned this stuff earlier.”
- “Nobody is closed-minded, and everybody talked comfortably. Even though everybody was of different ages, we all still shared a common understanding and respect for one another.”
- “I honestly enjoyed the program because it was a space were people can comfortably talk about sexual health. It is a topic that society keeps quiet when there is a high need for discussions on sexual health because too many have and carry out false notions about it.”

Penn Student Experience

- “I think that the conversation last week went so well. It was a lot to talk about gender identity, and it sparked so many conversations within myself. I felt that this subject is something that I can talk about comfortably within our group. I am learning so much from everyone in our group!”
- “Really loving the sex ed sessions, particularly the activities that we do in the workbook and the really great conversations surrounding it. Everyone is so vulnerable and open and it makes a really special experience.”

Penn Student Reflection

“OurSpace has always been a space that allowed me to learn, grow, and build meaningful connections with highschool students. The more I engaged with OurSpace, the more I saw my dream career reflected in my experience. Being able to openly discuss sexuality and identity with my students helped me work through a lot of my own experience of sex education in a conservative town. I adore everything about OurSpace, the people in the program have shown me unconditional support in so many meaningful ways. This is my 4th year being a part of OurSpace, and I am extremely proud and grateful to hold the position of OurSpace Coordinator starting this semester!”

- Iman Tednga, Penn Student

Activity - Check Your Bias!

1. If someone were to come out to you as LGBT, what would your first thought be?
2. How would you feel if your child came out to you as LGBT? How would you feel if your mother, father or sibling came out to you as LGBT?
3. Would you go to a physician whom you thought was LGBT if they were of a different gender than you? What if they were the same gender as you?
4. Have you ever been to an LGBT social event, march or worship service? Why or why not?
5. Can you think of three historical figures who were lesbian, gay or bisexual?
6. Can you think of three historical figures who were transgender?
7. Have you ever laughed at or made a joke at the expense of LGBT people?
8. Have you ever stood up for an LGBT person being harassed? Why or why not?
9. If you do not identify as LGBT, how would you feel if people thought you were LGBT?

ALLY

- Engages in activism by standing with an individual or group in a marginalized community.
- Speak out against actions as long as the potential for risk and danger are minimized.
- Ask marginalized people to justify their position for the benefit of their own learning.
- Amplifies the messages of marginalized communities through their lens & without crediting or creating a platform for that community.

ACCOMPLICE

- Focuses more on dismantling the structures that oppress that individual or group—and such work will be directed by the stakeholders in the marginalized group.
- Independently and proactively learns and researches about the marginalized communities of which they are not a part.
- Asks insightful questions at the appropriate time when they cannot find the information themselves.
- Amplifies the message of the communities that they have learned from without expectation of credit or reward.
- Uses their privilege to check harmful behavior.



QUESTIONS?

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