

Chabot College

For Immediate Release

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Chabot Hosts 110 Students for Summer Youth Sports Program

In an effort to keep kids active, provide educational opportunities and give students a place to go during summer, Chabot College recently hosted 110 students who are primarily from the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) for its 18th annual Summer Youth Sports Program (SYSP).

The half-day, four-week program is more than a sports camp; SYSP provides underrepresented youth in grades 4th through 7th the opportunity to visit Chabot and participate in activities and educational programs that present a positive representation of college to students who, for a variety of reasons, may not consider continuing their education after completing high school.

Part of expanding the program beyond sports, included SYSP continuing its STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) component. STEAM education gave students access to daily periods of STEAM-focused learning, including art, robotics, culinary arts and a welding demonstration, among other workshops. Additionally, the SYSP began a free, Family STEAM workshop series this summer.

"The Family STEAM workshop series was piloted this year and was designed to provide parents and caregivers with the resources and tools to empower them to support STEAM education at home with their children," said Director of TRIO Educational Talent Search and Hayward Promise Neighborhood Grant Coordinator Robin Galas. "Summer is a huge opportunity to get students and their families on campus. There are not enough low-cost and free options for families struggling in the Bay Area."

Approximately 30 families participated in the Family STEAM series, which offered free childcare to reduce barriers to participation and all workshops were in English and Spanish.

SYSP is offered for free each year through Chabot's TRIO Educational Talent Search program and the Hayward Promise Neighborhoods to students who could benefit from participating in the program. Each student is additionally provided with free breakfast and lunch during the program. As an added bonus, 21 Chabot students were also employed in various capacities to assist in providing a positive experience for campers during SYSP. The experience also gave them the opportunity to explore a possible future career of working with children.

"I'm proud of this program," said Galas. "It's really important for students to have experience on a college campus, develop a stronger relationship with higher education and begin to get college-ready."

About Chabot College

Chabot College in Hayward is a comprehensive community college in the heart of a thriving, diverse community where students of all ages and backgrounds can get a high quality education at an affordable price. The college awards associate degrees and certificates, and specializes in university transfer, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. <http://www.chabotcollege.edu/>