

# STEP-UP!

## A CALL TO ACTION



# What is Step-Up?

**Step-Up! is a call to action to combat the injustices and unfair practices within our schools and community, with regards to career growth and equity. NCRC staff and associates will assist students from NJ to develop a Step-Up! Project. It will be entirely created by students and implemented in their school/community throughout the school year.**

**The Step-Up! Project will focus on issues of equity, such as supporting/encouraging peers of historically underrepresented groups to select challenging Math and Science courses.**

# Getting Started

**Students can be as creative as possible, while upholding the principles, mission, and vision of the Nontraditional Career Resource Center. A good way to get started is to brainstorm various issues, problems, unfair practices, or injustices you may have witnessed or personally experienced at your school or in your community. Here are some ideas:**

- **Newsletter**
- **School-wide survey with results made public**
- **Assembly or workshop (guest speakers, during school or afterschool, teachers and/or students)**
- **Nontraditional Career Day/Fair**
- **Website with blogspot**
- **Artistic representation (i.e., mural, posters, etc.)**

# Some Questions to Think About:

- **Do all students have the same opportunity to succeed as others regardless of their gender, race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status?**
- **Do you believe your peers are aware of all the career options potentially available to them?**
- **Have you, or someone you know, ever been treated unfairly or unjustly because of their gender, race/ethnic background, age, disability, etc.?**
- **How did that incident make you feel on a personal level? Did it affect you in a positive or negative way, and why?**

# Some Questions to Think About (cont.):

- **Did you do anything to address the issue, whether directly, or indirectly? If yes, what did you do?**
- **What were some of the determining factors as to why you did or did not act on the issue?**
- **Is there anything currently being done in your school or community to address this particular issue, or perhaps something related to it?**
- **Why do you believe such issues arise in our society, and what can you personally do to help reduce the incidence of this problem?**

# Project Planning Guide

- **Project Title**
- **Project Leader/Team Members/Mentor**
  - **Have you recruited other students to assist you? If so, choosing a Project Leader may help facilitate the process by having one central person who can be responsible for coordinating things, mobilizing team members, and following up on items that need to be completed. Other students can be fellow CSI participants who attend your HS, or anyone else at your school who wants to get involved with the project.**

# Project Planning Guide

- **Project Description:**
  - **Please describe the inequity you are addressing, and what type of method you hope to implement to address this issue. Does this program exist in your school? Could other schools duplicate this effort? What are your expected outcomes? Could this program continue after your graduation?**
- **Career Component**
  - **Describe whether your project includes a career component.**

# Project Planning Guide

- **Time Line:**
  - **Describe the major steps you hope to accomplish in regards to when you hope to reach them, i.e. meeting with the principal/board of education, survey results, first informational session for interested members, researching potential speakers, etc.**

# Project Planning Guide

- **Estimated Cost of Implementation/Maintenance:**
  - **Research the costs associated with this project. Do funds exist in your district to support the program? If not, do you expect to fundraise, and how? You should also contact your local Board of Education President, PTA/O President, or Student Government representatives who may have funds already allocated to support an effort like yours.**

# Now What?

- **Throughout this week, you should begin thinking about your individual projects and start formulating a project plan. A preliminary project will be due by Friday.**
- **NCRC will keep track of your project via emails, blog updates, phone calls, etc. with students and/or their school project advisors.**
- **NCRC staff will be available to students for guidance and to address any questions, comments or concerns regarding the Step-Up! Project.**

# Question & Answer Session

