

August 13, 2013

Information Technology Empowerment Center awarded \$7,500 PNC grant

The Information Technology Empowerment Center in Lansing has been awarded a \$7,500 grant from the PNC Foundation to enhance education and improve technology skills for at-risk Lansing K-12 students in STEM after (science, technology, engineering and math) school programs and summer camps.

The grant, funded mainly from PNC Financial Services Group Inc., has allowed ITEC to expand its year-round programs in subjects such as Lego robotics, video game design and digital film making.

ITEC aims to serve 675 youths in their late elementary and middle school years within the Capital and Flint regions at an average of 20 hours of instruction per student.

“We are not only building students’ interests in STEM careers, but nourishing their creativity and self-confidence,” ITEC Executive Director **Kirk Riley** said. “We are very grateful to have a community partner such as the PNC Foundation step forward to invest in our students’ futures.”

ITEC is a Lansing nonprofit that works to increase student attitudes and perceptions toward science and math learning. ITEC classes build demonstrable IT and STEM skills, along with 21st century learning skills including problem solving, communication, and experimentation.

“The STEM curriculum at ITEC offers practical benefits that will positively impact students for a lifetime,” said **Tim Salisbury**, PNC regional president for Mid-Michigan.

“This training will put local at-risk children on the path to productive careers in our increasingly technology driven society.”