



State of New Jersey
HIGHER EDUCATION

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Stevens Institute Partners with Lockheed Martin to Train Future Engineers and Scientists at Innovative Summer Camp

Partnering with Lockheed Martin, the Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology introduced 48 girls and boys, ages 9 through 14, to *WaterBotics*®, an innovative underwater robotics program this summer. Lockheed Martin provided \$10,000 to conduct the two successful one-week camps.

“This program illustrates the value of business and higher education partnerships to create a much-needed pipeline of young engineers and scientists,” said Rochelle Hendricks, Secretary of Higher Education.

WaterBotics® was developed by CIESE and implemented in New Jersey classrooms. The program has expanded to Ohio, Illinois, Texas, and Kentucky. It is part of a \$2.5 million National Science Foundation program to provide hands-on experiences for middle and high school age youth in engineering design, information technology tools and science concepts, and to increase awareness and interest in engineering and IT careers.

“We see a crucial need to invest in the young scientists and engineers of tomorrow. Our future success — and our nation’s technological edge — rest on the shoulders of a highly trained, technologically-savvy workforce,” said Jeff Bantle, vice president & general manager of Lockheed Martin’s Moorestown operations. “We’ve partnered with Stevens Institute of Technology to encourage students to think about the endless possibilities of a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) related career and to help them gain the confidence they’ll need to pursue the unthinkable.”

The camps were held in the state-of-the-art facilities of the Babbio Center at the Stevens Institute. Students were challenged to design, build, program, test, and redesign underwater robots made of LEGOs and other components. Working in teams, campers progressed through a series of increasingly sophisticated “missions” that culminated with a final challenge that integrated learning from the prior challenges. The students also participated in tours of the Davidson Lab at Stevens where they saw engineers working with underwater robots.

“We are very grateful to Lockheed Martin for helping us launch the first *WaterBotics*® camps at Stevens this summer. The girls and boys who attended these camps experienced hands-on engineering activities in an exciting environment while expanding

their understanding of the variety of engineering careers and also their understanding of important STEM concepts,” said Mercedes McKay, Deputy Director of CIESE.

The donation enabled CIESE to staff the camps with experienced K-12 science and engineering educators and assistants. It also provided the necessary equipment for the campers to use and partial financial support to deserving students who could not otherwise afford the camp’s tuition.

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Twenty-four middle school students participate in the WaterBotics program in the Babbio Center at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken where they spent a week building robots with LEGOs and testing their creations out to see how they move in the water. *(Photo courtesy of Stevens Institute of Technology)*