Undergraduate women mentor middle school girls

Ten undergraduates who participated in the REU program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute mentored ten middle school girls in a one-week summer program.

Middle school girls from inner city schools get one-on-one mentoring from female engineers who serve as positive role models, and learn leadership and creativity skills. The girls reported that the program made them more interested in science and more confident in being able to work in a science field.

The one-week Innovation in Bioengineering summer program is an integral part of the WPI REU “Integrated Bioengineering Research, Education, and Outreach Experiences for Females and Underrepresented Minorities at WPI”, increasing REU students’ leadership and mentoring skills. Girls from local middle schools are mentored by the REU participants in the mornings and enjoy group activities involving engineering challenges, creativity training, and leadership activities in the afternoons. The week culminates with poster presentations by all of the middle school girls.

Middle school girls are mentored one-on-one by REU participants
Image credit: WPI

Middle school girls work together on engineering challenges and build confidence in group projects. Image credit: WPI