

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
County of Cook and State of Illinois

**WilburWright College Hosts Urban Environment Summer Internship Program for Teens
Chosen by Chicago State University; Partners included BOLD Chicago, Chicago Public
Schools, and the NOAA Program at WWC**

THE CHANCELLOR

REPORTS. that Partnering with Chicago State University, BOLD Chicago Institute (Building Opportunities for Leadership Development) and the Chicago Public Schools, Wilbur Wright College provided HAZWOPER (hazardous waste disposal operations) training this summer for eight students from Fenger, Bowen, and Harlan high schools who were chosen by the CSU Geography Department. The program was made possible through a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) grant to Wright College Department of Environmental Technology and Chicago State University Department of Geography(CSU).

The purpose of the program was to open doors for the students to environmental and weather science careers and provide them with paid seven-week internships at an environmental firm. Through the program students obtained HAZWOPER Certification, received environmental leadership training and received practical on-the-job experience in environmental technology.

After the summer internships, these students can continue along a path that introduces them to the Environmental Technology Program at Wright College and follows through to the geography program at CSU. Students completing this educational path after high school travel along an educational pipeline reflecting the outcome goals specified in the NOAA grant awarded to Wright College and CSU. If the student completes this educational path they are prepared for employment in a career related to the environment and the weather sciences.

Comments from corporate participants involved with the program have been most enthusiastic. "The BOLD/NOAA Chicago Intern Program has been a very successful endeavor at Environmental Design International (EDI)," said one consultant "... three [interns] ... have requested that they participate in the internship during the holidays." An administrator said, "EDI' participation has had an important effect on the lives of these inner city high school students and will probably influence the rest of their lives."

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Watson
Chancellor

September 9, 2004