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COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
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Undergraduate Research: Chicago Waterways Learning Community

Presentation to the Chicago Board of Trustees
August 1, 2013



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO
Harold Washington
Education that Works

Interdisciplinary program engaged students in study of the public perceptions, biology, and history of the Chicago River



Key Facts

- 17 students
- 7 faculty members
- 6 disciplines: Art, Biology, Chemistry, English, Library Science, Physical Science
- 2 semesters (Spring / Summer 2013)

Research was supported by *The City Colleges of Chicago* Annual Plan funding

Guest lecturers and field trips offered hands-on exposure to the River and helped build project and time management skills



Field Trips

- Chicago History Museum
- McCormick Bridge House
- Architecture Boat Tour
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Stickney Water Reclamation Plant

Guest Lecturers

- Faculty and researchers from 4-year institutions:
 - University of Illinois-Chicago
 - Columbia College



The students translated their research into final projects that took forms reflective of their disciplinary focus



Communication vehicles

- Research posters
- Conceptual display (art project)
- Photography/videography
- Published annotated bibliography
- Website



Key takeaways: Jammil Anibaba



- History major
- Transferring to UIC
- Wants to teach someday
- Plans to continue to do research

Key takeaways: Amanda Smith



- English major
- New interest in environmental studies
- Plans to pursue bachelor's degree and career in field

Next steps



- Developing scalable model for interdisciplinary research coursework
- Presenting at Association of American Colleges & Universities Conference
- Applying for additional funding



Questions?

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