

STEM Report, 2014-2015
Kris Puzza

She was involved with two STEM projects:

The first involved a partnership with Poughkeepsie "rising freshman", at-risk students from the MS, and the Liberty Partnership at Marist College. Basically it was a mentoring program between Marist students, mostly education majors, to encourage students, boys and girls, in the STEM fields and to give them a taste of college life. The last time this was accomplished was 2 days last summer, **2014**. It did not involve funding, or at least nothing major. No committee was involved as it was based on a previous program (#2 below) but Kris took another IBM volunteer with her.

The time before that was the **Fall of 2012** when the program ran for about 12 sessions, once per week in 3 hour sessions from October through December for the same group of students. There was more of a committee then and AAUW funded it as there was not enough in the Liberty Partnership budget for that. Each MS student was paired with a Marist student mentor. I think the reason that was the last major time was that the Partnership concentrated on ELA skills rather than STEM this past fall.

Also, there has been multiple changes (three) in leadership at Marist and Kris has had difficulty reconnecting. The latest contact there is Charnikia Pinesett. She does want to continue and will fill out the form and ask for funding hoping Liberty will be focusing on STEM issues again. It may or may not be used, sort of like Anthula's.

The second program, which has not been run now for several years, was with VanWyck JHS students, all girls. It ran monthly from October through May. Again, it was a lot of IBM volunteers working with the JHS students on STEM workshops. She initially was involved with this because it was **an IBM program**, she was a volunteer, and her daughter was involved. Then, with IBM's declining staff and, therefore, volunteer force, Van Wyck asked her to take the program over as a volunteer. That is when she tried to get AAUW volunteers to help her instead. However, to top that off, the last TWO years, Van Wyck has not had room for them! She tried asking for twice a year, once each semester, rather than monthly and they still had no room. However, she keeps trying and there is no need for funding really from us but might be for volunteers.