

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Port Chester Public School District Runs First District-Wide i2 Learning Program

i2 Learning (“i2”) partnered with the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District (“PCSD”) to run a week-long STEM immersion program for all sixth grade students and teachers in the district, with most of each school day dedicated to the i2 program. The PCSD program is the first time a public school district has run an i2 program district-wide.

The three i2 courses that ran at PCSD were: (1) Engineering Prosthetic Devices, (2) Architects of Time, and (3) Engineering Ice Cream. i2 trainers led three day-long professional development sessions for a total of 26 PCSD teachers who then led the teaching of the courses. i2 also provided all materials and supplies for the courses and teacher training.

The i2 program, using a novel immersive format, gave PCSD students the opportunity to engage in a specially developed, highly motivational curriculum based on creative, hands-on STEM projects, activities and learning. i2 has partnered with leading scientific and academic institutions, including MIT, the American Museum of Natural History, Woods Hole and Harvard, to develop its programs.

PCSD has over 4,400 students, and the Middle School has nearly 1,000 students. Port Chester Middle School has been a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

“The i2 STEM immersion program has empowered our students to explore, tinker, fail, try again and ultimately succeed,” said Carlos Sanchez, Director of Curriculum for the district. “One of our goals in Port Chester is to create opportunities for all students regardless of demographics, and i2 fits that perfectly. With i2, our kids are excited to seize the moment and take advantage of the opportunity to see what life is like as an engineer or scientist.”

Chris Zidik, a sixth grade teacher, remarked how the i2 program “fully engaged our students across the board, from the high-performing ones to those with special needs. The immersive format helped students focus more deeply on their work.”

i2 has run its hands-on, immersive STEM programs for middle schoolers at dozens of locations across the United States, including New York, Chicago, Washington DC, Palo Alto, Philadelphia, Newark and Boston, as well as overseas in Kenya and Jordan.

i2’s goals of more deeply engaging children in the STEM fields and helping ignite a life-long interest in STEM are accomplished in three critical ways: (1) giving middle schoolers an opportunity to engage in creative, hands-on STEM learning experiences that they would not see in the course of their normal schooling, (2) providing its programs in an immersive fashion, and (3) providing expert-level, in-person professional development to teachers.

About i2 Learning

i2 Learning (www.i2Learning.org) runs immersive STEM programs for students in grades four through eight across the United States and around the world, both during the school year and in summer. i2 has partnered with leading scientific and academic institutions, including MIT, the American Museum of Natural History, Woods Hole and Harvard, to offer engaging courses in fields such as engineering, genetics, robotics, computer science, mathematics and ecology. Each i2 course is a week-long, hands-on, immersive project, giving students the opportunity to engage in creative STEM activities and learning in areas that they don't typically see during the school year. i2 provides schools with curriculum, professional development, materials and professional support.