



PADUCAH JUNIOR COLLEGE, INC.

Challenger STEM Squad

Mellisa Duncan

2/01/22- 1/31/24



STEM Squad member Brantley takes notes as he listens to speakers from NASA's Johnson Space Center

Credits: Challenger Learning Center, Paducah

The Challenger STEM Squad project seeks to strengthen the capability of the Challenger Learning Center (CLC) to serve as a local NASA STEM IEI through the launch of an in-depth education program for historically underserved rural students in Western Kentucky who are interested in STEM/space related

careers. The project offers 30 students in 5th-7th grades the opportunity for enhanced exposure to NASA programs, mission and curriculum which would otherwise be unavailable to them. Beginning in October 2022, STEM Squad offered correlative and connected NASA STEM educational cohort experiences across a full year meeting once a month virtually and once a month in person. Over the summer participants were required to complete a PBL called Boots on the Moon. The program culminated with the Space Camp Pathfinder Program experience in September 2023. Participants will meet again in November 2023 and April 2024 to be encouraged to continue their engagement by the creation of an alumni group. This group will not only share out their experiences, but be used as a resource for volunteers and other experiences at the CLC.

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