

IPRO 330

Creating a Dynamic and Contemporary Math and Science Fair Project Bank for Chicago Public Schools

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Problem

2003 international student testing showed that 15 year-old Americans ranked 24th out of 29 nations in an average of several tests for mathematical literacy.¹ In addition, urban 8th graders generally score worse on standardized science tests than other Americans.²

Objectives

IPRO 330 was designed to combat mathematical and scientific illiteracy/apathy among Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students. The goal of this team is to provide students with the ideas and materials necessary to succeed in their science fair, held by every high school in CPS once a year. It is our belief that students who enjoy their science fair experience will be encouraged to continue learning about math and science during their high school careers.

Team Organization

IPRO 330 was split into three subteams: the project team, the presentation team, and the website team. The project team was in charge of coming up with innovative and interesting science fair project ideas; also they needed to determine an appropriate definition of a math-oriented science fair project. The presentation team was to come up with guides that would help students achieve better projects. The website team was to design an aesthetically pleasing website that would display the information from the other two teams in an understandable way to the students.

Accomplishments

IPRO 330 achieved many of our goals, posting projects and guides on the website along with links to other applicable sites. The group was also able to provide pictures of these projects, so students will be able to view how their experiments should look.

Future Plans

Future members of IPRO 330 will expand and improve on already posted projects and presentation guides, as well as add projects of their own. The website will also need to be expanded and improved upon with increased content, and more interactive programs.

1 Summary available at www.apa.org/monitor/mar05/math.html, with full results at www.pisa.oecg.org and www.timss.org.

2 Summary available at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15734446/>, with full results provided from the government.