

Dynamic and Contemporary Science Fair Projects for CPS Students

IPRO 330

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The Problem

“International and domestic comparison show that American students have not been succeeding in the mathematical part of their education at anything like a level expected of an international leader.”

The Final Report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel, U.S. Department of Education, Washington D.C., 2008

Previous Accomplishments (Fall 2008)

- ❑ Visited Chicago Public Schools to promote the website
- ❑ Judged over a dozen CPS science fairs to understand better the needs of the science fair program
- ❑ Created lab note-taking and lab techniques sections
- ❑ Publicized and marketed our website through CPS and Science Chicago (LabFest)

Proposed Features of Student Lab

- ❑ Run by IIT students and project director
- ❑ Lab equipment and science fair project materials
- ❑ Project presentation assistance
- ❑ Potential set curriculum based on simple experiments

The Brand New Plan

- Design a Inquiry-Based Science Center for high school students on the IIT campus
- Integrate the website to this plan, minimize maintenance, assess usability

Work done thus far...

- Contact with several university offices
- Survey for CPS teachers/parents
- Letters of support from teachers
- Rough draft outline of proposal
- Usability testing

The Sub-Team Plans

Grant Proposal Team

- Gather information on potential grant donors as well as grant writing formats
- Communicate with university officials about our plan
- Actual composition of grant proposal

Website Team

- Assess the usability of the website
- Attend to any maintenance issues
- Add features as necessary, such as project generator

Present and Expected Difficulties

- ❑ Delays in communication
- ❑ Group dynamics
- ❑ Obtaining support from parents and teachers
- ❑ Meeting proposal deadline dates
- ❑ Developing an effective curriculum
- ❑ Lab space
- ❑ Sustaining proposed lab center

Questions...!
