

MSUE “I Know MI Numbers” Program Summary

Improving Science Literacy to Increase College Readiness

In 2011, only 26 percent of Michigan students who took the ACT met the official College Readiness Benchmark for science. This means that nearly three-quarters of Michigan students preparing for post-secondary education were not ready for entry-level science courses in college, thus limiting their ability to be academically successful (The Conditions of College and Career Readiness, 2011).



- The focus of MSU Extension’s Science Literacy Target Program is to increase:
- » Youth interest in science and a desire to participate in future science learning experiences.
 - » Youth science knowledge and skills.
 - » Collaborations between 4-H and schools by providing quality hands-on 4-H science resources that help teachers teaching science concepts.
 - » Community partners’, educators’ and families’ awareness of 4-H science resources and learning opportunities.
 - » The number of teachers and science education providers who view Michigan 4-H as a resource in science education.

To accomplish this, the Science Literacy Target Program focuses on two primary objectives. The first is to organize and present community science learning events called 4-H Science Blasts. The second is to develop and publish hands-on science lessons and experiments for formal and non-formal science education providers such as the 4-H Science Blast! in the Class Teacher’s Guide, which is online at 4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/science_blast.

Mission

Michigan State University helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

Contact Us

MSU Extension
108 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI
48824-1039

(517) 355-2308
www.msue.msu.edu

OUTCOMES

From March to October 2011, 54 4-H Science Blast events took place in communities across Michigan. More than 6,900 young people and 5,300 adults have been directly affected by these activities. Evaluation results show:

- » 94 percent of young people learned something new at a 4-H Science Blast event.
- » 91 percent of young people thought the science activities were fun and interesting and the event made them want to learn more about science.
- » 79 percent of young people wanted to get more involved in a 4-H science project or club.
- » 94 percent of adults thought that their child learned something new about science.
- » 95 percent of adults thought that their child appeared to gain interest in science because of 4-H Science Blast activities.
- » 96 percent of adults said that in the future, they plan on using 4-H as a resource for science education.



Nearly 60 percent of the 4-H Science Blast events resulted in new community-based partnerships around youth science education, and 80 percent of the events received contributions from local partners. At least 400 volunteers helped organize and conduct 4-H Science Blast events.

More than 230 4-H Science Blast! in the Class Teacher's Guides have been distributed to science education providers such as public school teachers, private school teachers, home school educators and after-school educators. These teachers reach approximately 8,500 young people. Evaluation results show:

- » 92 percent of educators plan on using the 4-H Science Blast! In the Class Teacher's Guide.
- » 90 percent of educators say this resource will help them teach science to young people.
- » 92 percent of educators say this resource will help young people learn science concepts.
- » 92 percent of educators say they view Michigan 4-H as a resource for youth science education.

Efforts to increase science literacy continue to be a focus for MSU Extension across the state.