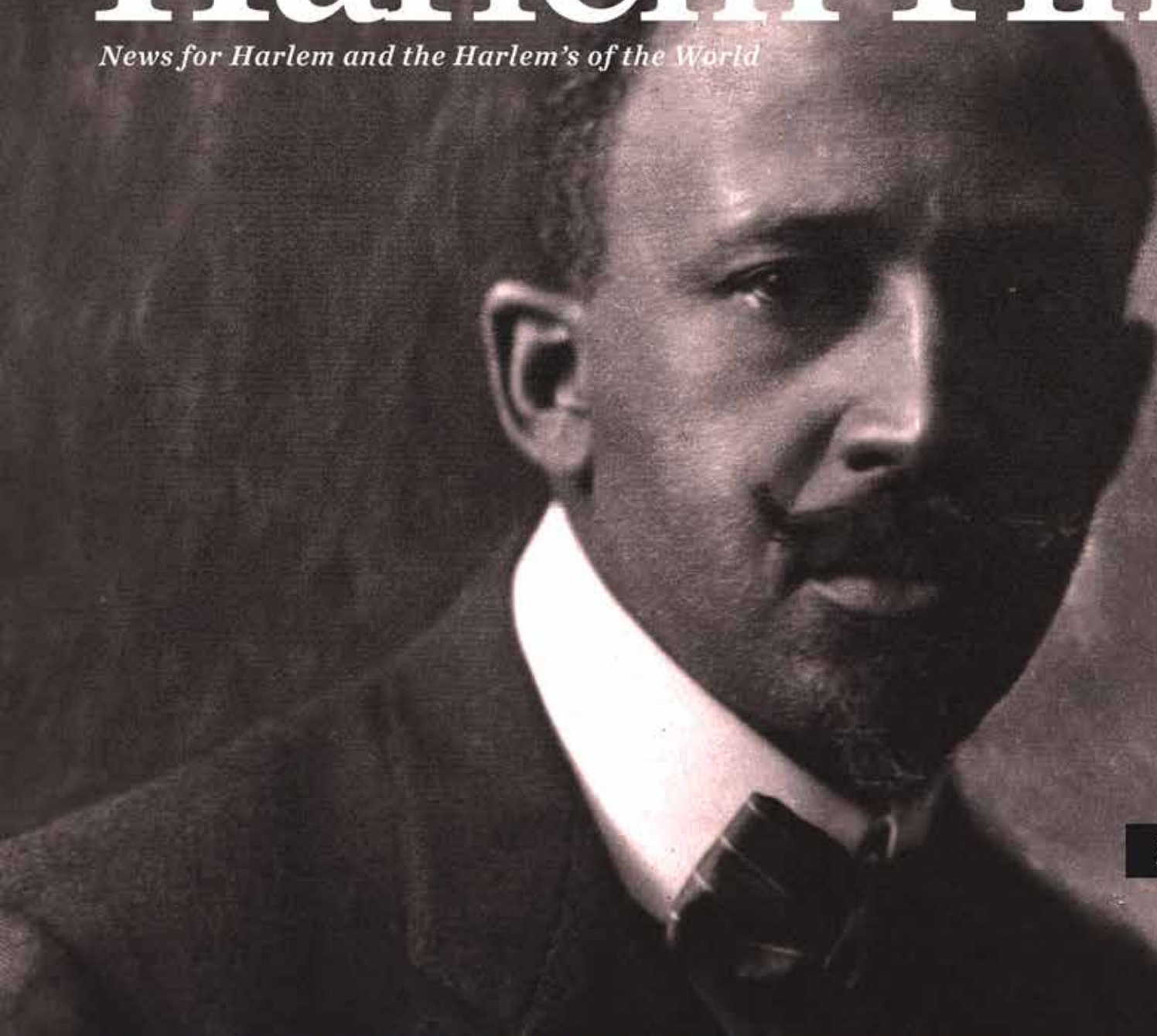


The Harlem Times

October 2017

News for Harlem and the Harlem's of the World



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ARDEC Inaugurates GEMS STEM Outreach Program

By Frank Misurelli

ARDEC launched a new educational, extracurricular Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative called Gains in the Education of Math and Science (GEMS), as a new host site in support of US Army STEM outreach. GEMS is an enrichment program for talented seventh-through twelfth-grade students offering hands-on learning experience at U.S. Army laboratories, including the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) laboratories.

“GEMS is part of the Army’s Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) managed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Armaments, Logistics and Technology, Research, Development, Engineering Command,” said GEMS led program coordinator, ARDEC

engineer, Douglas Wong. “The AEOP selected ARDEC as its only new RDECOM lab to begin its program in 2017, joining the ranks of a dozen Army Labs that are already participants,” he said.

Wong explained that the AEOP Mission is to inspire and attract the next generation of STEM talent from kindergarten- through college-age and expose them to DoD STEM careers, through programs like GEMS. GEMS’ first priority is to broaden, deepen, and diversify the pool of STEM talent to support DoD and industry. Its second priority is to support and empower educators with the unique RDECOM and ARDEC technologies, and finally, develop and implement a cohesive, coordinated, and sustainable STEM education outreach infrastructure.



Three week-long sessions were offered this past summer at Picatinny. From July 31 to August 18, ARDEC engineers and scientists covered diverse topics such as Strength in Materials and Design of Experiments, and Armaments Design. Eleven courses were offered, each course averaged 12-16 students.

“It was a total Team Picatinny endeavor, to bring these young adults here, safe and secure, and still conduct our mission. We had many Picatinny engineers and scientists volunteer their time as perform as cohorts, providing teachers and mentors the tools they needed to instruct these eager students,” said Wong. This year they included ARDEC engineers: Guiseppe diBenedetto, Yin Chen, Tom Grego, Kevin Singer, Tomas Bober, Larry D’Aries, George Fischer, Adam Enea, as well as role models (SMEs) throughout the year, such as Shah Dabiri, COL Jay Ferreira, Ralph Tillinghast, and Dion Serben.

Wong also recruited local teachers as Research Teachers and talented high school grads and college students as Near Peer Mentors who served in coach and educator capacities, instructing students with STEM-related projects. Students, mentors and teachers who qualify for ARDEC GEMS, earns a stipend for their participation, from the AEOP.

June Kim, son of Picatinny employee Jintae Kim, said, “I liked meeting new people, like my college mentor, and also viewing the cool machines, tools, and facilities. I figured out more specifically what people do at Picatinny now that I experienced this program...It was a great experience and I’ve learned a lot about computers and computer science.”



Hillsboro High school sophomore Kruthika Chintamani, daughter of Picatinny employee Balaji Chintamani, participated in the first week of GEMS. She said, “I never thought this would be so hectic, challenging, and exciting! I fell in love with Robotics and it generated a new interest in engineering.” Her father summed up her love of robotics by saying, “Robotics opened a new door in her education and thanks to the U.S. Army for providing this great opportunity to these aspiring kids.”



THE SHAPE OF THE LOGO SHOWS PICATINNY ARSENAL'S COMMITMENT TO FULL CIRCLE SUPPORT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION.

THE FLAME IN THE CENTER REPRESENTS THE SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENT GREEK TITAN, PROMETHEUS. TITANS WERE GIANT DEITIES OF INCREDIBLE STRENGTH.

THE WEAPONS DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. ARMY'S ARMAMENT RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING CENTER (ARDEC) AT PICATINNY ARSENAL DEMONSTRATE INCREDIBLE STRENGTH AND POWER.

ARDEC'S HIGHLY EDUCATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, NUMBERING IN THE THOUSANDS, ARE LIVING PROOF SHOWING THE POWER OF KNOWLEDGE AND CREATIVITY.

PROMETHEUS IS KNOWN FOR GIVING THE GIFT OF FIRE TO HUMANS AND TEACHING THEM OTHER ACTS OF CIVILIZATION. PICATINNY ARSENAL SEEKS TO LIGHT A FIRE OF PASSION FOR STEM IN STUDENTS AND THEIR TEACHERS.

THE PROMETHEUS FLAME EMANATES FROM THE ARMY'S FIVE POINTED STAR. THE BACKGROUND COLORS ARE THE BLACK AND GOLD OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE COLORS OF THE FLAME MATCH THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE MOST POWERFUL, CIVILIZED AND EDUCATED NATION ON EARTH.



PICATINNY ARSENAL

$$pe(s) = \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0}$$

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SUPPORT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION IS THE BEST HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE AS A SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERPOWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

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