YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

YMWIC Workshops

Workshop 6

As the 6th Workshops took place across our Chapters in November, Scholars enjoyed exciting visits and amazing hands-on learning activities from YMWIC STEM Partners at The DaVinci Science Center. During their first visit for Workshop 5, DaVinci staff led Scholars in a programming activity using Hummingbird Kits that allowed them to work with simplified programming software. From there, Scholars used wires to attach a light board to a small device and programmed it to light up in different shapes and letters, and create blinking patterns. Thinking critically and using problem-solving skills, some of the more advanced Scholars engineered a strategy to make the device play pre-recorded sounds or spin levers. We were quite impressed with their ability to collaborate while devising solutions.

For their follow-up visit to Workshop 6, Da Vinci staff showed the Scholars how to create Kinetic Motion Sculptures: art that depends on motion for its effects. By connecting foam pads and wooden rods within a small container, Scholars made little sculptures that bobbed up and down, spun around, and swung side to side at the turn of a crank. These sculptures could be connected to the spinning levers from the Hummingbird Kits to automate the crank and produce a full, programmed machine. These activities, provided them with the opportunity to stretch the edges of their creativity and learn about applied programming and engineering.

In addition, Scholars practiced filling out lab reports for a mock experiment using data which was based on a mock experiment in which they tested the absorbency of different paper towel brands. Scholars used the provided data tables and results to fill out the different sections of the lab report. This offered them the opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on the lab reports in real time. It also provided them with useful resources to refer to when completing their own lab reports at home for their Science Expo experiments.

Workshop 7

At Workshop 7, our Scholars were introduced to the online adaptive learning tool Edmentum Exact Path. They were set up with their account logins and began working on the Math diagnostic. We will be utilizing this tool to assist our Scholars in strengthening their Math skills. Most Scholars did not get an opportunity to complete the diagnostic, so they will complete them in upcoming Project Support sessions.