

AS I SEE IT

JOERG OHLE ON CAREER PATHS FOR THE YOUNG

STUDENTS NEED SCIENCE, MATH MENTORS

Public Agenda, a New York-based public policy organization, recently released some compelling survey findings.

The survey, which involved more than 2,700 Kansas City area parents and students, found that although most students understand that there is a growing need for mathematics and science workers in our world, most do not see themselves in the picture.

But why? And what can be done about it?

A student's educational journey is much like an equation. Its outcome is dependent upon its variables. So if as a community it is our goal to increase the number of students seeking careers in math, engineering, technology and science, there are key variables we must first add into the "education equa-



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Exposure to math and science careers helps students make the leap from theoretical to practical — from textbooks to the real world. Exposure allows students to better understand the breadth of career possibilities available in math, engineering, technology and science-related fields — and find their place "in the picture."

Collaboration among businesses, the civic community and education is critical to providing students with exciting and engaging experiences in these fields of study. Busi-

nesses must be willing to open their doors to students and teachers — or even go into classrooms — to show students the possibilities.

Those variables: exposure and collaboration.

In the Kansas City area, we are fortunate to have a hub that seamlessly brings these variables together. Through UpLink, businesses and the community can get involved in opening new worlds for students through school-based mentoring and e-mentoring, student internships, job shadowing, classroom speaking and teacher externships.

UpLink makes it simple for all businesses, large and small, to engage and inspire students to seek math, engineering, technology and science careers. At Bayer, we value preparing tomorrow's work force today and have experienced firsthand the value of participating in this worthwhile endeavor.

We encourage all businesses to collaborate in UpLink and help complete the math, engineering, technology and science education equation in Kansas City.

To learn more about becoming an UpLink partner or to schedule a presentation, call 816-842-7082. More information also is available at <http://yf-uplink.org/>.

UpLink is operated by Youth-Friends, a nationally recognized school-based mentoring organization.

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