

Christopher Pierret, Ph.D.

Director of InSciEd Out



2017 Stewardship Update

Integrated Science Education Outreach (InSciEd Out) in Greater Chicago Area

The mission of Integrated Science Education Outreach, or InSciEd Out, is aimed to *engage students and empower teachers through research-based experiential learning rooted in real science and connected to the local communities to close the achievement gap*. The InSciEd Out team's passion is to bring the joy of science to students in grades pre-K–12.

In 2017, an InSciEd Out hub was established in Chicago, Illinois, with a focus on engaging curriculum for the mind and body. The generous gift from the Walter S. and Lucienne Driskill Foundation allows the implementation of InSciEd Chicago teacher internships with schools in Network 5 of Chicago Public Schools. It covers the supplies, personnel and travel to host this fantastic opportunity.

The foundation's collaboration and friendship inspire us to reach for higher expectations. This commitment allows us to continue rebuilding the culture, language and practice of science education for the 21st century.

Describe the recruitment and training of a site coordinator in 2017 for Integrated Science Education Outreach (InSciEd Out) in Greater Chicago Area.

We are fortunate to welcome InSciEd Out-trained researcher Dr. Karim Mustafa to the team. Dr. Mustafa had been with InSciEd Rochester for three years and was regularly voted our most accessible team member by partner teachers. Through an interview process in collaboration with Driskill Foundation leadership, Dr. Mustafa was selected to lead InSciEd Chicago. Following his selection, the Driskill Foundation's CEO, June Barnard, and Dr. Christopher Pierret worked to negotiate a home for this position within the Stanley Manne Research Institute under the leadership of Dr. Jacek Topczewski. This has been a tremendously good fit for Dr. Mustafa's continued scientific growth and proved an excellent site for the workshops in 2017.

Describe the recruitment of a teaching team/school partner and completion of a summer 2017 internship.

Dr. Mustafa and the Driskill Foundation team made presentations throughout a number of school networks, including Network 5. After rigorous evaluation, and in cooperation with Chicago Public Schools, lead schools were selected for the program. Seven schools attended the 2017 workshop and have since moved forward in the creation of custom curricular units focused on mental health and addiction.

What is your research program's ultimate goal for impacting science education?

Together with the Driskill Foundation, we hope to ignite the curiosity of Chicago students, improving their pathway to the sciences and/or to a healthier life.

What are your research program's next steps for 2018?

We are excited to receive 30 additional teachers for training in 2018, and we will debut our Tier 2 training in cultural relevance with the first training group (from 2017). Additionally, volunteer networks are expanding to fill the needs of the Chicago student-scientists.

In what ways does being part of Mayo Clinic and receiving this gift contribute to the overall success of InSciEd Out's mission?

InSciEd Chicago is one of many efforts with InSciEd Out, housed in the Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Science. Through this work, we mobilize an improved trajectory for students previously marginalized to science. Also, we create health literacy improvements (measurable in our 2017 workshops), helping students, teachers and the community to advocate for their own health. Finally, this work identifies and builds relationships with populations that have had lesser relationships with Mayo Clinic, improving their health and our practice.