

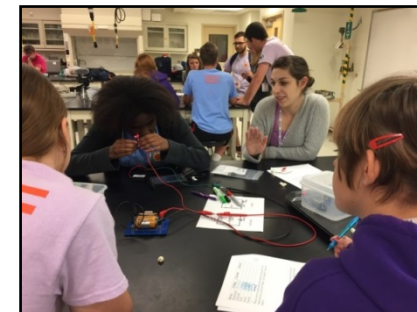
# College Prep for Blind/Low-Vision Students



A five-day **STEM Extension** program in July 2017 provided ten blind or low-vision college-bound students with a full-access experience in college chemistry and physics labs as part of *Summer Academy*, a three week college transition program hosted by the PA Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Bureau of Special Education.

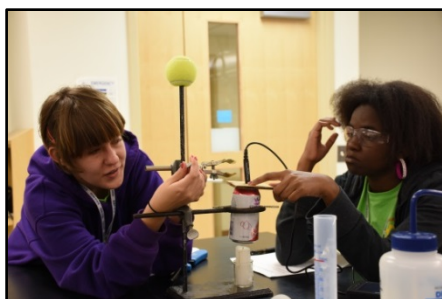


Balancing tactile equations



Electric circuit investigations

Three MRSEC grad students served as Science Mentors and received special training, guided by instructional faculty. MRSEC outreach staff coordinated the program with all stakeholders, including Science U, which provides logistical support. *STEM Extension* will continue in 2018–2020 as a weekend attended by all twenty-four Summer Academy participants and also Teachers of the Visually Impaired.



*“...in the science lab I’m told...to go sit in the corner and do homework or just play on my phone, so it was actually nice to be in this week’s program because I actually got to participate and learn some interesting stuff...Next year I’m going into Chemistry and ... I’ll be able to prove to my teacher that I’m able to do [it]. I have pictures of it for proof.”*