



For immediate release
July 11, 2011

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NEWS RELEASE

NASA *Summer of Innovation* Comes to Grand Rapids

GRAND RAPIDS – Studies show that by keeping students involved during the annual summer break, they avoid what is known as "summer slide" and are better prepared to learn when school resumes in the fall.

As part of its push for education and careers in science, technology, engineering and math, Believe to Become is partnering with NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and GMiS (Great Minds in ScienceTechnologyEngineeringMath) to bring [Summer of Innovation](#) experiences to Grand Rapids Public Schools middle school students enrolled in summer school and Believe 2 Become summer learning academy programs.

GMiS Viva Technology™ Parent Night
Thursday, July 14, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

GMiS Viva Technology™ Student Day
Friday, July 15, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ottawa Hills High School
2055 Rosewood Ave. SE

Through its Summer of Innovation initiative, NASA demonstrates its commitment to summer learning and the positive effects it can have on students. NASA's goal is to increase the number of future scientists, mathematicians, and engineers, with an emphasis on broadening participation of low-income, minority students. Through partnerships with Believe 2 Become and other entities across the country, NASA is using its substantial assets -- including the agency's scientists and engineers -- to create summer learning programs.

"This is an incredible opportunity for Grand Rapids students to experience science, technology, engineering and math in a fun, interactive and engaging setting," said Dr. Bernard Taylor, Jr., superintendent of Grand Rapids Public Schools. "We are grateful that NASA and Believe 2 Become are bringing such exciting summer learning experiences to our students."

The Believe to Become (B2B) Initiative is one of four efforts in the Midwest selected for a strategic collaboration with NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. To support the implementation of NASA Summer of Innovation projects, Glenn Research Center education specialists have trained more

than 90 certified teachers and 40 informal educators to engage 2200 underserved and underrepresented middle school students in hands-on, inquiry-based activities this summer.

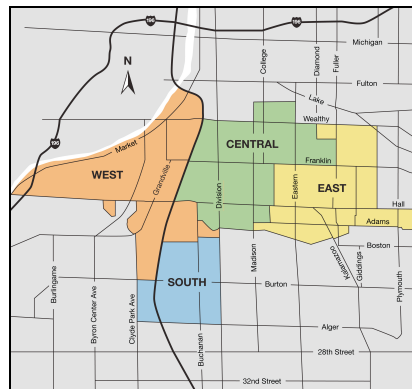
Local students will experience those activities on Friday, July 15. On Thursday, July 14, their parents will learn how encouraging student interest in math and science could positively impact their child's future career and financial opportunities. The parent component will be presented in both English and Spanish.

On Friday, about 400 students will experience a day filled with hands-on competitive and educational exercises designed to explore math and science concepts. Highlights will include a Rocket Launcher challenge and a Science-Technology-Engineering-Math Jeopardy game. Attendees will work in teams led by engineering and science college students from surrounding universities and colleges including Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Valley State University, Davenport University, and Creston GRAPCEP. They will also have the opportunity to interact with NASA Glenn Research Center and Believe 2 Become community leaders.

NASA Summer of Innovation began in 2010 in support of President Barack Obama's [Educate to Innovate](#) campaign for excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. NASA's missions and programs provide compelling and dynamic content to show the career opportunities available in those fields.

Targeted at middle school students, Summer of Innovation uses a variety of approaches and experiences to engage the students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Designed to help close the academic achievement gap for students who live in four B2B zones (shown on the map below), Believe 2 Become is supporting 34 local [summer learning academy](#) programs this year.



Viva Technology™, the national K-12 educational program from Great Minds in STEM, engages students, parents and teachers in activities that show the correlation between math and science studies and exciting careers in technology.

Believe 2 Become is a collaborative partnership of hundreds of organizations and individuals who believe in the unlimited potential of Grand Rapids children, and expect them to succeed. Believe 2 Become is creating real opportunities for children and youth to become the people they aspire to be. www.ibelieveibecome.org