



BUILDING UNIQUE INVENTIONS TO LAUNCH DISCOVERIES, ENGAGEMENT AND REASONING IN STEM

TUSKEGEE BUILDERS ACADEMY

MAY 29, 2017

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Applicants selected for the Academy have been notified of acceptance.
- The BUILDERS Academy capstone event will be on July 21, 2017.
- Students will be invited to participate in the BUILDERS research program

WELCOME!

Welcome to the BUILDERS Academy! We received a large number of applications from very qualified students and the selection process was very difficult. All acceptance notices have been sent home with the students, and it is really important that the letters be signed by students and parents to verify commitment to the program. Letters should be signed and returned no later than June 2, 2017 (BTW and Central) or June 10, 2017 (Notasulga).

Students who were not accepted to the Academy have been placed on a wait list, and will be timely notified of acceptance if there is an opening. Students who were not accepted to the Academy this summer can apply again in the spring for the 2018 Academy.

If you are not familiar with Tuskegee's campus, be prepared to see beautiful historic buildings and a vibrant student community that will inspire you to let your imagination and creativity fly.

Make a note in your calendar of the **Capstone Activity** (July 21, 2017, 3:00-5:00 pm), which will be open to family and friends, and will showcase

Academy dates:
June 29—July 21 (break for the 4th of July holiday)
9:00 am—4:00 pm
Tuskegee University Campus

the work students completed through the Summer Academy.

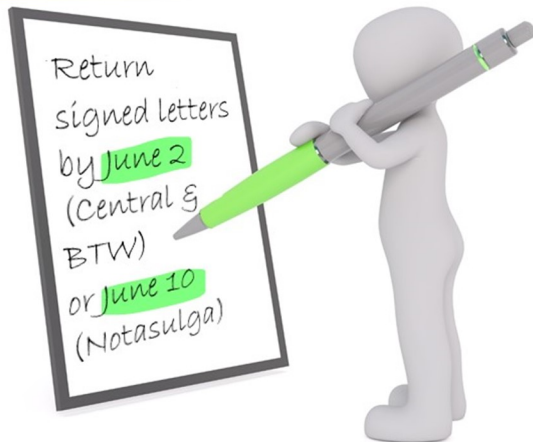
We are looking forward to meeting all of our students in June!



WHAT IS THE BUILDERS PROGRAM?

The builders program is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). It will provide high school students from the Phenix City and Macon County enriching, hands-on, learning activities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Using *invention* as a learning tool, students will learn and develop technical

skills that will allow them to create technical solutions to problems that affect their communities. Our goal is to allow students to be guided by their own interest while mentored by select teachers from their school districts and faculty from several of Tuskegee University's renowned STEM programs.



DAILY STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

The BUILDERS Academy will provide bus transportation to interested participating students. School buses will have a morning and afternoon route, and details about pickup locations and times will be discussed with the listed parents/guardians shortly.



DAILY STUDENT MEALS

Balanced meals and snacks will be provided to students daily. Although common allergens will be avoided, students with severe food allergies or dietary requirements should consider bringing their own food.



WHY WILL THERE BE RESEARCH?

One of the goals of the BUILDERS program is to allow teachers to develop lesson plans that can benefit the Phenix City and Macon School communities for years to come. The teaching approaches that will be developed in the Academy are novel, and there are many things we can learn about how they benefit students. Thus, we will be asking all students to consider participating in a research project that will explore the many benefits of the Academy interventions. This research will take the form of surveys or brief interviews asking about their goals and academic successes and perceived failures, as well as their opinion of the Academy activities. Teachers will also provide valuable information on their experiences during the Academy. We will also ask for permission to call students for a brief interview a few months after completing the Academy.

Please, note that because students are minors, *both* students and parents must consent to having students participate in the research. Parents are welcome to preview the questions that students will be asked, and students who agree to participate in the research may change their mind at any time. Research participation is voluntary and *not* an Academy requirement.

Questions regarding the research to be conducted as part of the BUILDERS program can be addressed to Dr. Martha Escobar (marthaescobar@oakland.edu) or Dr. Mohammed Qazi (maqazi@mytu.tuskegee.edu).



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2 –
Deadline to submit student acceptance of admission to the Academy (deadline is June 10 for Notasulga)

June 29 –
First day of the Academy

July 21 –
Academy Capstone Event

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

Four teachers from the Macon County and Phenix City School districts have begun preparing for the Academy activities. Ms. Lauren Howell (Science), Ms. Angela Player (Science) and Mrs. Brenda McNeely (Math) from Booker T. Washington High School, and Mrs. Cicely Abron (Math) from Central High School.



Questions? E-mail us at
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