STEM LEAPS Learning Labs

For the first time, the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP) launched a new program called, "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Law Enforcement and Public Safety (LEAPS)." Approximately 80 Riverside, CA high school students participated in a variety of hands-on STEM activities, training through experiential learning in areas such as building and coding robots, evidence collection methods, crime scene management and statistical analysis of big data. Students were introduced to crime scene forensics where they participated in a variety of hands-on activities such as collecting fingerprint samples, using black lights to locate trace evidence, and assessing a mock crime scene.

Students learning with applied activities

During the last two days of the program, students chose among four elective areas of specialization for a final presentation. They were given the option to build and code robots, work hands-on with coding algorithms to develop a website, learn how to develop and use SmartApps or learn how to use a Geographic Information System (GIS) to visualize and analyze crime information in the community. Within their chosen groups, students identified a problem relating to law enforcement and public safety and then came up with a solution. Their final presentations were judged by a panel and winners were chosen for each of the 2 one-week sessions. The students' presentations were impressive and the STEM LEAPS LEARNING LABS far exceeded expectations. Bourns was pleased to assist in the development of this innovative program and to host it in the Bourns Technology Center located at the Bourns, Inc. headquarters in Riverside, California.

Graduates receiving their diplomas