



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Princeton Blairstown Center Wins Support for Trenton's Rivera Students
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation Provides Grant

PRINCETON, NJ, May 20, 2015 – The Princeton-Blairstown Center (PBC) today announced it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation in support of the STEM-based activities in its Social Emotional Learning Program for Rivera Middle School students in Trenton.

The Princeton-Blairstown Center, originally a camp run by Princeton University students to give inner-city boys a character-building fresh air experience, evolved into a variety of year-round, multi-service, youth development experiential education programs serving over 5,200 students from the Mid-Atlantic States. In addition to Rivera Middle School in Trenton, PBC runs programs at Trenton Central High West Campus and at the Global Neighborhood Secondary School in New York City.

The PBC programs at Rivera are innovative dropout prevention programs, led by a Masters-level social worker, that teach students critical social-emotional skills like self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and healthy decision making. PBC's approach combines practical applications in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), critical thinking skills, social and emotional growth, and leadership development. The structured program provides 76 students with positive peer support to make healthy choices, problem solve, delay gratification and set goals. The group also works on communications skills, focus, and resiliency.

“This generous gift from Bristol-Myers Squibb will allow PBC to provide a STEM-based gardening project that will take place at Rivera as well as a five day-four night July trip to PBC's Blairstown Campus”, said Pam Gregory, Executive Director. “Imagine growing up in Trenton without a backyard and being able to hike and explore 264 acres of pristine woodlands and swim and wade in Bass Lake and Blair Creek. Students will learn about ecology and wildlife and see their first stars away from city lights. For many Trenton students it is a first!” The program focuses on decreasing summer learning loss by providing three hours of daily environmental education, literacy and integrated language arts instruction along with the social-emotional and leadership skills learned from the challenge and ropes courses that students can transfer back to school and family life.



About the Princeton-Blairstown Center

PBC is an independent nonprofit with a mission to transform the lives of vulnerable young people through integrated experiential and adventure-based programming in schools and at our Blairstown Campus near the Delaware Water Gap. We collaborate with schools, university partners, and community-based agencies to develop in youth deepened self-awareness, responsible decision-making, teamwork, and leadership skills. Our wide variety of year-round, multi-service programs serve over 5,200 students from the Mid-Atlantic States.

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