

Bridging the Gaps



Learning Across Language Barriers

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COMMUNITY PARTNER



Community Partner: **CCIU Migrant Education Program** (<https://www.cciu.org/migrated>)

MEP provides resources for migrant families and their children such as transportation support and directing families to healthcare and food resources. The program also provides academic support through tutoring, after school programs, home visits, community workshops, and a full-time summer education program that includes literacy, STEM, math, and field trips.

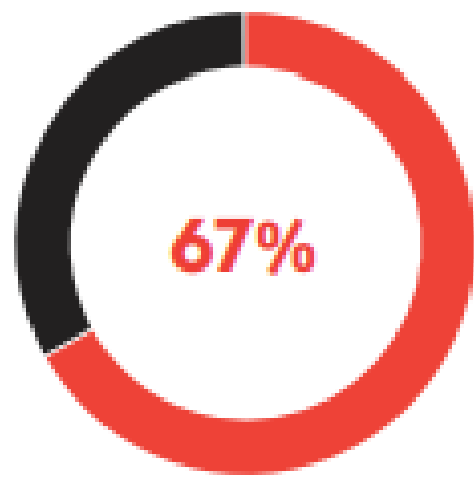
BACKGROUND

639K Philadelphia

638,500 immigrants reside in Philadelphia, or 11 percent of the total population.

296K

296,400 non citizens residing in Philadelphia are potentially at risk of deportation.



67 percent of the city's immigrants participate in the labor force, greater than the share among the city's native-born population (65 percent).

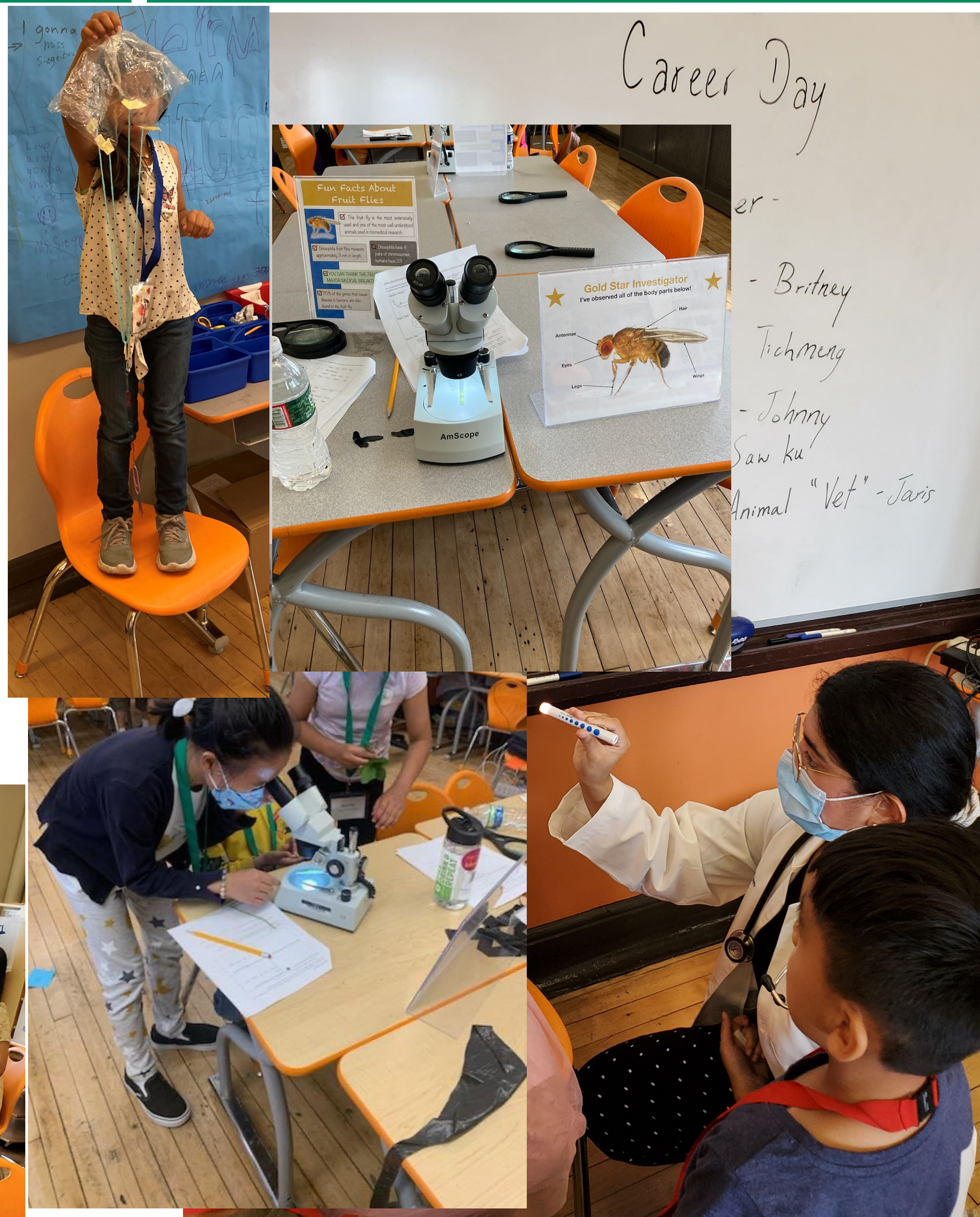
Vera INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

- According to a 2015 study by the Joint Commission:
- LEP patients are at greater risk for adverse events than English-speaking patients
- Physical harm to 49.1% of LEP patients vs 29.5% of English-speaking patients



TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

- Instructed STEM classes for grades K-11th for MEP's summer education program at Taggart school
- Provided translational and resource assistance for other instructors
- Led oral health presentations for students and parents
- Helped lead community literacy workshops at public library



ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ CHALLENGES/ JOYS

- Bird adaptation experiments
- Path to Medicine Career Day Presentations
- Air Resistance Experiment: Parachute-Making
- SPARC Microscope Lessons
- Art Club: Painting birds that represent your home country

REFLECTION

Working at MEP helped me to recognize the impacts of communication barriers in our community. Many of the students and families I worked with spoke languages different from my own. Some individuals spoke Spanish, but even then, many individuals spoke Spanish only as their second language. I learned to incorporate different methods of communication to help break through language barriers. For example, I tried including using visuals, written communication to reinforce verbal communication, and actions or gestures to help students make connections between my words and things they already know.

I also learned more about barriers to education including family immigration status, and how different factors such as being separated from families at a young age, needing to work at a young age to survive, language barriers, and navigating a new culture can have significant impacts on children's mental health. With a stronger awareness of these issues and more knowledge about local resources, I will be able to better understand individual's needs and help direct them to or access resources

