

WNBC – TV

News 4 New York

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

7:00 P.M. Broadcast

Total Run Time - 1:53

Chuck Scarborough: In today's economy, experts say it's more important than ever that children be well versed in science and math so they're ready for the tough competition of the job market. But saying that is one thing, getting it across in the classroom is another. Carol Ann Riddell has more.

Carol Ann Riddell: New Jersey teachers back in class this summer turning up the heat when it comes to inspiring students in science and math.

Paul Pecoraro: The most important thing that I've seen is that if we can have the children connect something in their lives to something that we're trying to get across to them in the field of science the more they'll retain.

Carol Ann Riddell: These teachers are part of a summer program at the Stevens Institute of Technology. They're learning hands on experiments to bring back to their classrooms - this one about the boiling point of water. The goal... to get kids engaged in science and math in a real world way.

Beth McGrath: Nearly half of middle school students are taught by science teachers/physical science teachers who don't possess a minor or a major in that field.

Carol Ann Riddell: Another issue - expert say it's particularly important in this economy for kids to be engaged in science and math because that can help them be competitive when it comes to jobs in the technology industry.

Evan Van Hook: The rate of jobs in the science, math, and engineering fields are growing at 5 times the rate of all other jobs combined in the United States.

Carol Ann Riddell: Evan VanHook works for the technology company Honeywell which supports the summer institute.

Evan VanHook: Asia is graduating three times the number of students in science, math, and engineering than the United States.

Carol Ann Ridell: According to the National Science Board , across the country, when it comes to math and science most 4th, 8th, and 12th graders do not perform at levels considered proficient for their grade.

Jahari Chavis: A lot of students are intimidated by it. They initially, in the beginning of the year, they hate science and by the end they love it.

Carol Ann Ridell: And that's the challenge because odds are when they love it they'll learn it.
Carol Ann Riddell News 4 New York.