Making science fun

A day of learning at Stevens Tech

The city's fate was in the hands of a group of Jersey City School 7 students, a few pieces of rope and a bicycle tire tube.

As part of Student Innovation Day at Stevens Institute of Technology on Tuesday, students were tasked with transporting an imaginary can of "toxic popcorn" without coming within a "contaminated" circle 8 feet in diameter, all in 15 minutes. Failure meant the destruction of the city. No pressure.

It was just one activity in Student Innovation Day, which brought 60 middle school students from Jersey City to Stevens to participate in activities like "toxic popcorn."

The students also heard from Stevens faculty and professionals working in the sciences. The day was part of the Honeywell Teachers for the 21st Century Summer Institute, a program designed to encourage students to consider careers in the sciences.

VIVEK PATEL, front, works together with Cora Rodriguez, back, to solve the "Toxic Popcorn" activity. The students had only 15 minutes to finish.

CHRISTINA BACUYAG, a Jersey City School 7 student, looks on as her classmates make a wobbly attempt to move a container of "toxic popcorn" using only a bicycle tire tube and some rope.

LAUGHING IT OFF: A group of students laughs off the pressure of saving the city from "toxic popcorn." The School 7 students had only 15 minutes to solve the problem.