

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC)  
Urbana Middle School (UMS), Urbana, IL**

For 13 consecutive years the Urbana Middle School (UMS) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) has provided 26 weeks of before and after school enrichment, academic support, social skills, fitness and healthy living classes on an average of 400 students yearly. This program provides valuable opportunities for the students while helping to create a safe, healthy and stable school-wide environment that encourages the exploration of a variety of educational offerings while helping prepare students for success in high school and future high-demand occupations. The UMS 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program has become an integral part of the Urbana Middle School. The UMS program has become a critical part of the total educational program of Urbana Middle School serving diverse groups of students reflective of the student body.

**21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Demographics**

UMS Enrollment: 915

2015-2016

UMS 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Enrollment 314 / 34%

Student Participation:

Limited English Proficient	20	6%	American Indian /Alaskan Native	1	.3%
Free and Reduced	205	62%	Asian	19	6%
Special Needs	53	17%	Black or African American	106	34%
Male	155	49%	Hispanic/Latino	39	12%
Female	159	51%	Native Hawaiian	0	%
Two or More Races	19	6%	White	130	41%

**1. How have the academic performance and/or behavior of students participating in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs improved?**

- Surveyed teachers report that students who consistently attend the program participate and volunteer more in class.
- Surveyed parents report that their students have the opportunity to interact with other students and that their child is better at making friends and behaving more appropriately at school because of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC attendance.
- In addition to the perceived value to parents, students and staff noted in the yearly surveys, program sessions have become prescribed interventions for struggling students. The program offers a time for students to receive a reteach of information learned during the school day.
- Academic classes and homework lab are recommended to parents during conferences for students struggling with their grades. Counselors recommend the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC courses for students at risk of retention or attending summer school. Teachers recommend the program for students in need of more social connections.
- Parents view the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program benefits students. 93% of parents believe their child completes homework more often and 96% believe their child behaves better in school.

**2. How does 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers funding serve as a backbone or magnet to bring additional other resources into the school?**

- The UMS 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC has been the core program for many community satellite classes that operated under the UMS program umbrella. EYE to EYE mentors from the University of Illinois focused on preparing students with learning disabilities for success and goal setting in college. Minecraft was offered by the U of I math department. The Girl Scouts and Principal Scholars also used the UMS program as their satellite locations gaining stronger attendance by students.

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- The UMS 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC also partnered with the University on other classes, U of I Cooperative Extension, C-U Rotary, University of Illinois Center for Small and Urban Communities, Dr. G's Brain Games and the C-U Safe Routes to school project.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program has shown tremendous growth in student attendance and class offerings, and rapidly became a positive support with the community due to its collaborative efforts to maintain funding and to keep the community informed. The sustainability of the program has been possible because of the continual commitment of District leadership.
- Program leadership has spent large amounts of time presenting their long range plans to a variety of potential donors and stakeholders: Illinois State Board of Education, Urbana Board of Education, City of Urbana and Urbana Park District. Over the years the program developers have sought and been granted limited additional funding through community and individual grant opportunities.

### **3. How do 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs help prepare students for high demand occupations?**

- The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program at UMS allows time for students to interact with students from a wealth of cultures. These interactions lead to a deeper understanding of students from many cultures, which is a critical attribute for occupational success.
- 94% of surveyed parents report their child is more interested in school because of improved program attendance. Those students who remain in school are best prepared for an occupation.
- The STEM classes offered at UMS were all designed for occupations within the science, technology and math fields.
- Many of the classes offered focused on the problem solving, social and organizational skills necessary to be successful in the work place.

### **4. How do 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs contribute to the health, safety and stability of the wider school community?**

- Signs of the program are visible throughout the hallways. An entire double classroom is designated to house the program creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all program students. 87% of attendees feel safe attending the program.
- Students who attend the afterschool activities have the opportunity to work with a variety of school staff that they wouldn't necessarily meet during the regular school day. Anytime students get to better know more staff it creates a more supportive school environment. 91% of students state having a positive relationship with staff working in the program.
- Without the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program almost one half of the UMS student body would be at home or unsupervised within the town without the program providing assistance for homework, organizational skills, social skills, or being challenged by gaining new information in the arts, technology, science, performance arts, culinary and the many other classes offered to UMS students. 90% of students enjoy attending the program.