BEAM is a cooperative educational enrichment program that prepares inner city, minority, and female students for careers in science, engineering, and technology. BEAM was founded in 1982 by a consortium of the UB School of Engineering, Linde-Union Carbide (now Praxair, Inc.), Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Buffalo Public Schools.

Funding today is made possible through the generous support of companies, educational institutions, community organizations and individuals.

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**SUMMER PROGRAMS** take place at various colleges in the area. Students will spend 4–5 weeks participating in enrichment activities that provide intensive instruction in the topics of mathematics, science, communications, and computer applications. Programs are for students entering grades 8–12. All participants attend field trips to enhance their learning experiences and receive career information from speakers in the field.

**BEAM CLUBS** meet after school for one hour. Participants work on engineering and/or science projects weekly. Each program establishes its own curriculum but all of them consist of hands-on projects that demonstrate math, science or computer principles. The projects range from simple to complex. A simple project could be one that lasts one week such as making paper airplanes and exploring aerospace principles. A complex project could be a year-long effort to build regulation size canoes while exploring the fluid mechanics necessary for a maiden voyage. Projects also vary with the age and ability of students in the club.

**SATURDAY ACADEMY** is a program designed for students in grades 7–12 who are interested in exploring the wonder and excitement of science and technology. Students participate in activities that allow them to experience first-hand, various aspects of engineering.

Participants meet twice a month on Saturday mornings to work on projects such as building solar cars, or creating Lego Mindstorm robots. Some of our groups participate in culminating events and competitions that allow them to test their creations and compete with students from other areas.

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