



ACASTEMICS

Success

MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

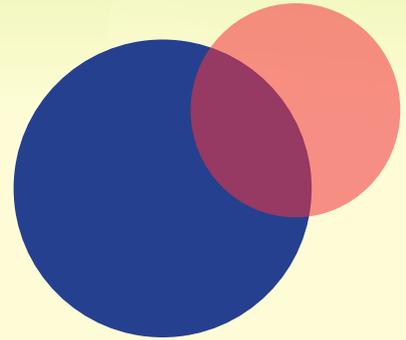
BACKGROUND

ACASTEMICS is a national movement that thrives in fostering enthusiasm in youth. Our focus is providing extra help to younger kids who have a desire to be an engineer, a doctor, or a computer programmer but do not know how to go about it. They do not know anybody that are doing what they aspire to do in life. It's about keeping STEM on their minds and in front of their face. Eventually when they hear and see it enough, they will believe that they can achieve also.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the success manual is to implement a new methodology among our young people to achieve academic success and to provide a direction for future career aspirations. The implementation model is called the **Exposure-Development-Acknowledgement Model (EDAM)**.

This manual is not making a claim that it will teach you how to raise your kids. This methodology is based on how my parents raised me and my sisters along with my experience of mentoring for over 18 years to over 225 young men.

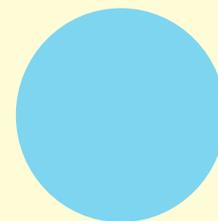


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DEFINITIONS

ACASTEMICS:

STEM-based academics; academics that are rooted in the elements of STEM concepts designed to promote future STEM career aspirations

ACASTEMIC ENGINEERING:

the science and methodology of achieving success through STEM initiatives

EXPOSURE:

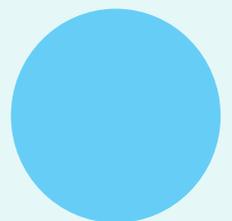
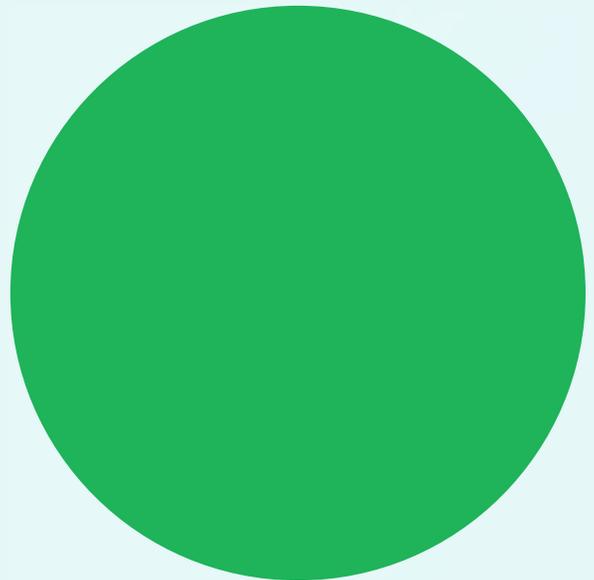
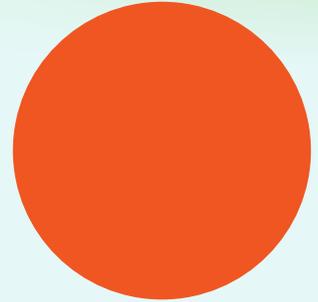
introducing new concepts, individuals, and places to young people that are outside of their normal day-to-day routine

DEVELOPMENT:

the process of learning and improving a talent or skill by doing associated activities to maximize potential

ACKNOWLEDGE:

recognizing an accomplishment that our young people have achieved





EXPOSURE

The first step in implementing **AcaSTEMic Success** is showing our young people exposure. Exposure is so important because you either show them new interests or show them new goals that will lead them to new interests. A new interest provides the ignition to whole new career aspirations.

We want to take young people out of their normal day-to-day routine. We want to show them new places, new people and new concepts. New concepts can be buying challenging products, new books, or attending new academic summer programs. We have to obtain any educational concept that may be an opportunity to show them something new. We do not know what will peak their interest, we just need to keep throwing new things at them and see what they stick with. We need to lead them to their destiny.

FACT:

92% of boys and **97% of girls** will lose interest in STEM if not engaged by the 5th grade.

Source: skyhookfoundation.org



FACT:

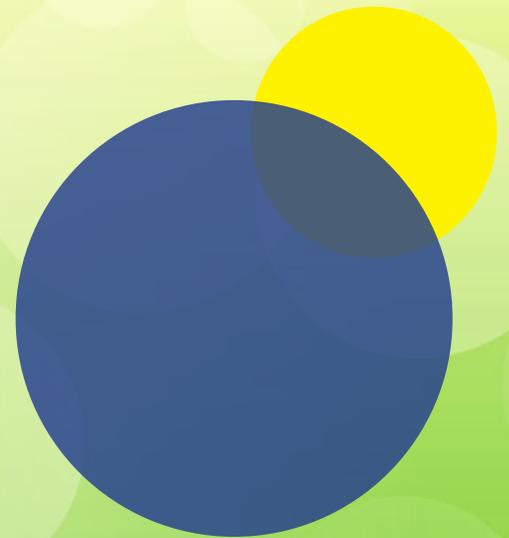
People in STEM fields can expect to earn **26% more money** on average and be less likely to experience job loss.

Source: skyhookfoundation.org

DEVELOPMENT

Whenever they do express an interest in something, we have to provide them the tools to be good at that interest. It's important to remember, that their interests will go from one interest to the next in a matter of weeks (days or even hours)! However, we have to keep giving them the time and resources to develop their skills in their chosen interest of the month. One day they are going to find something that they will stick with and it will lead to their life's career.

Young people's career aspirations are sometimes formed early in life. We have to make sure we foster those aspirations by developing their skills for their interests. If they express interest in music, buy them that instrument and get them music lessons. If they express an interest in science, get them a science kit. If they like computers, get them a computer and the coding classes.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

When you develop their interests and because they are so enthusiastic about it, they are going to achieve a level of accomplishments. At that point, we have to acknowledge their accomplishments. We have to voice to them how proud we are of them. We have to acknowledge that they have done good.

We acknowledge young people by being there. This is an important note: We convey what is important to young people by what we show up for. Do we show up for football game on Friday night and miss the parent-teacher conference on Tuesday night?

Even though I am the biggest football fan, it gets me how we acknowledge our football players with a fancy signing ceremony but we do nothing for our academic scholars. That's why I developed **Academic Scholars Day (ASD)**. ASD is an event whereby we acknowledge the accomplishments of students who are going on to college on academic scholarships. Also during the even we connect the scholars with mentors to "coach" them during their matriculative years.

FACT:

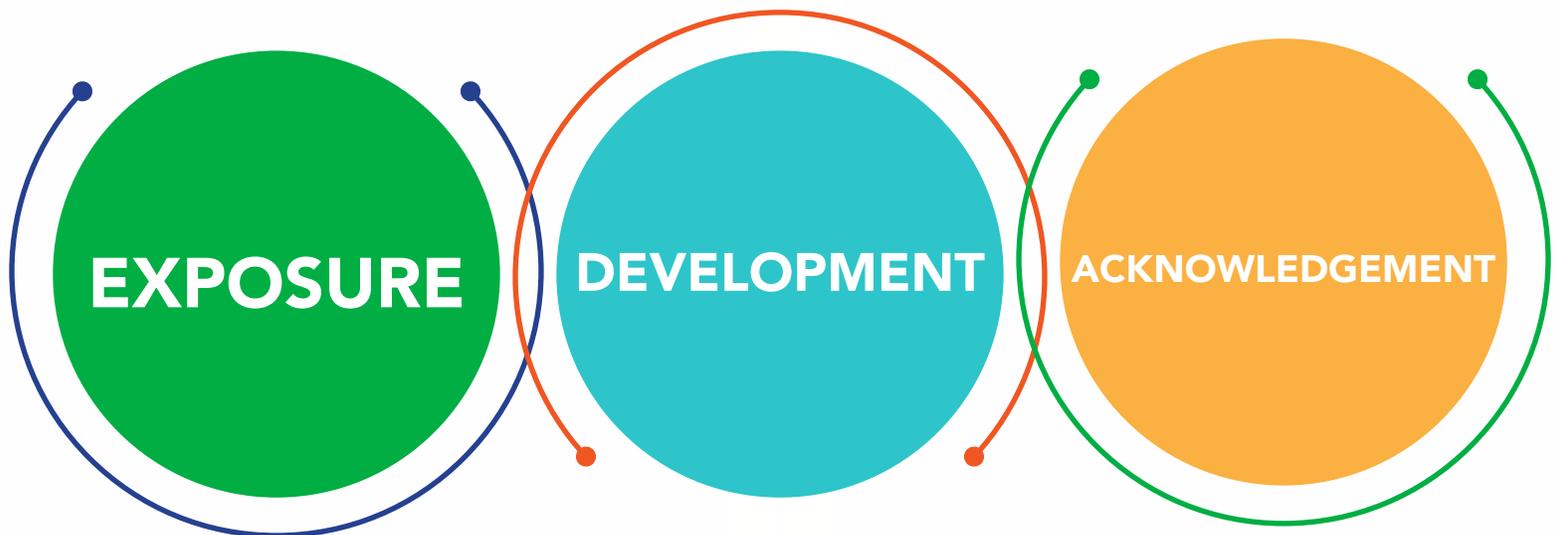
Research indicates that there must at least an **8-to-1 positive-to-negative interaction ratio** for parents and teachers to have a positive relationship with their children and students (Latham, 1994; 2002)

Source: skyhookfoundation.org

CONCLUSION

It has been my experience in 18 years of mentoring that the EDAM is an effective model in molding our young people toward their career aspirations. With this model, you have to keep trying at it because our young people's minds are wandering and empty vessels waiting to be filled by what we present to them.

I have attached an **Implementation Guide** to help navigate implementing AcaSTEMic Success with our young people. The guide lists examples on how to implement each element of AcaSTEMic Success. This guide is only a framework to get you started in the AcaSTEMic frame of mind, you are free to mold it in to what is needed for purposes.



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



How to implement **EXPOSURE**

- Take a trip to a place you have never been before (i.e., new city, the other side of the state, mountains, nature retreats, etc)
- Go to a cultural event (i.e., play, museum, history center)
- Go to a speaking event to hear a new speaker
- Cook a new meal together
- Buy a book that introduces new concepts
- Send them to summer camp with a specific focus (i.e., STEM)
- Shadow a person in the field they are interested (i.e., doctor, engineer)
- Obtain devices that teach new concepts (i.e. STEM kits)
- Go visit colleges/universities
- Go visit new cultures (in the US and abroad, this can be done virtually)
- Do community service (i.e., volunteer at food bank, tutor younger kids)
- Download and listen to podcasts (i.e., business, history, sciences)



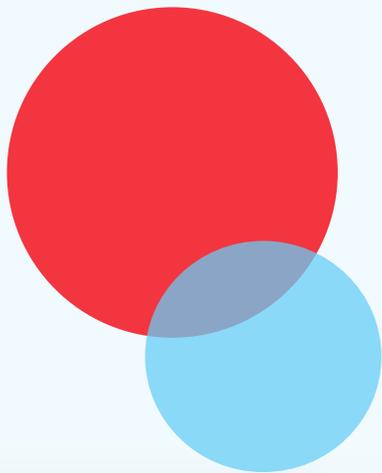
How to implement **DEVELOPMENT**

- Get music lessons if they express an interest in music
- Get them involve in STEM programs to develop skills if they express interest
- Start community service initiatives for the less fortunate
- Allow them to be curious, ask questions, and to be inquisitive
- Develop their learning style and learning skills
- Find role models and mentors in their chosen interest
- Encourage them to take on new challenges
- Take free online courses in their chosen interest
- Have discussions that fosters debates and critical thinking
- Work on written and verbal communication
- Work on responsible decision making
- Link up with other young people with shared interests (i.e. science club, debate team, etc)
- Concentrate on interpersonal skills (i.e., teamwork, dependability, flexibility, patience, etc)



How to implement ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Communicate to them what you are proud of them for (i.e., “I am proud of you for giving your all on that math test!”)
- Have big accomplishments announced in church (i.e., graduations, college entrances, honor roll, dean’s list, scholarships)
- Write a handwritten note
- Send an email of congratulations
- Post accomplishments on social media
- Allow them to pick the meal for the family
- Provide incentives (i.e., curfew-free weekend, etc)
- Show up to their events (i.e., dance recitals, band concerts, awards ceremonies)



Acknowledge the following:

- When they do their personal best
- When they complete a project
- When they come to the comfort or aid to another
- When they show creativity in their words and actions
- When they take on a new challenge

RESOURCES

[Early STEM exposure is key for the future of the workforce](#)

[STEM/STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and the Arts Resources](#)

[Ways to Develop Your STEM Skills](#)

[Recognizing Student Success: Creating A Positive Culture For Students](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[STEM Resources](#)





ACASTEMICS

www.ACASTEMICS.com