

EGR

Educational Divide Reform

3rd

The 3rd Annual Step Up Program

Period: June 25-July 6, 2018

Place: University of Massachusetts, Boston

STEP UP

Becoming a Freshman:
Paving the Way for College Success

The Program Courses

- English Proficiency Course
- Math & Science Course
- History & Basics of Civic Education
- Personalized Tutoring Sessions



**Visit the program
website to watch
the video!**

<http://edrworld.org/edr-programs/step-up-program>





Adelene Augustin

“ The program helped me to prepare my future and show me how to do something by myself. I say thank you everybody who help me. ”

Way for College Success

The 3rd STEP UP program

This year's Program brought together twelve (12) students representing five (5) countries: Cape Verde, El-Salvador, Eritrea, Haiti, and Vietnam.

Executive Summary

This is the final report for the 3rd Step Up Summer Program “Becoming a Freshman: Paving the Way for College Success” offered by the Educational Divide Reform. The two-week educational program took place at the Vernon building of the University of Massachusetts Boston from June 25 - July 6, 2018.

This year's Program brought together twelve (12) students representing five (5) countries: Cape Verde, El-Salvador, Eritrea, Haiti, and Vietnam. English was not a native language for any participant. All participants were from the Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA).

The program aimed to help BATA graduates to be successful at the freshmen level of higher education through the achievement of the following objectives:

- improving academic English (aca-

demic writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills)

- advancing understanding of math (algebra and geometry) and science (biology and chemistry) classes
- equipping students with knowledge on how American history shapes the current values of U.S. society
- assisting with determining which college and which academic program might be the right fit
- improving students' skills in self-reflection and self-discipline.

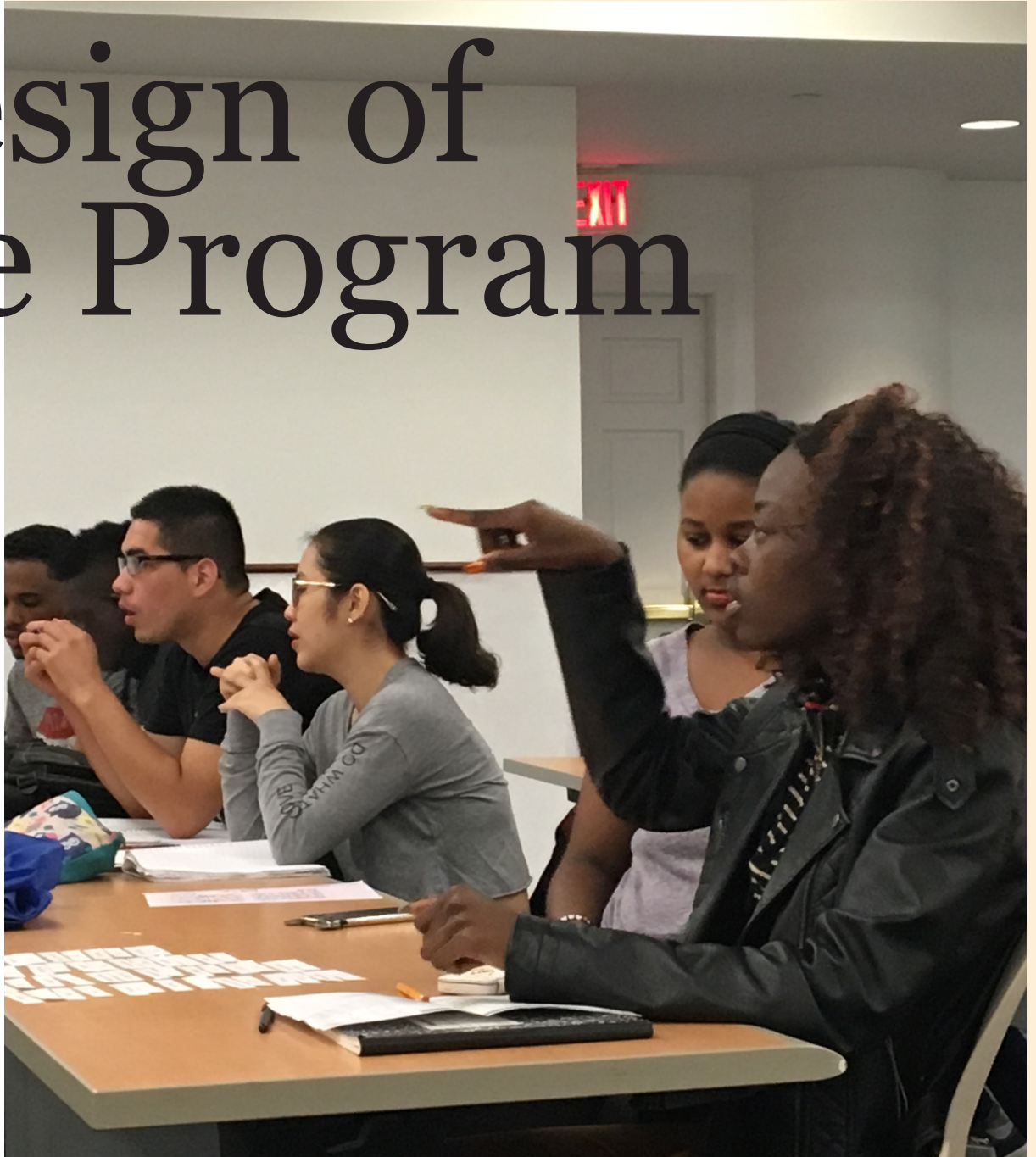
The Program used a participatory approach that encouraged students' active engagement in learning and the exchange of ideas and experiences. The design of the program also promoted respect and value for students' cultural traditions and heritage.



Ricardo Teixeira

“ This program was good for me because I learned of many new things and I improve my English proficiency every day with my friends and teachers. Before I didn't know about college and now I feel more comfortable to go because they teach me how to take notes, how to stay focused in class. ”

Design of the Program





Design of the Program

The Educational Divide Reform (EDR) team was in charge of designing the program. The team comprised of the founders of the EDR who have more than 20 years of work experience in the field of English language education: Dr. Mary Cazabon and Dr. Jinseop Jang. In designing the program, EDR team also closely collaborated with BATA teachers, staff, and students. EDR extends special thanks to Mr. Benjamin Helfat, the principal of the school, and to Ms. Jean-Francois Renote, English Program Director for their continuing support of partnership with EDR.

Thematically, the program consisted of the following courses:

English Proficiency Course aimed to assist students to further advance the English skills they need for academic study in the U.S. higher education setting (undergraduate level). Activities within this course allowed participants to practice public presentations of academic material, trained them to make notes on academic material and develop skills in understanding and recognizing the main arguments of academic texts.

Math & Science Course aimed to improve students' readiness for college level education by learning basic concepts in the

fields of Algebra & Geometry, and Biology, and Chemistry.

History & Basics of Civic Education acquainted students with knowledge of the history of American Revolution, the US Constitution (related to daily life as a college student) and American government system (federal & local government).

EDR also offered participants to enroll in the personalized tutoring sessions on Saturdays. Tutorials aim at addressing the knowledge gaps in different fields of study and improving mastery of English skills.

Program Implementation

During April-May, 2018, EDR staff representatives had a number of meetings with BATA students and staff. The meetings helped identify students' needs and interest in after school summer program, as well as allowed to present the program to students.

In order to enroll into the program, the students had to fill out the registration forms and sign an agreement with EDR on complying with the following requirements of the Summer Program: to regularly attend offered classes; show up on time; actively participate in class activities; complete homework assignments; and to be respectful towards others.

Classes were held at the University of Massachusetts Boston at Vernon building the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston) at 150 Mt. Vernon Street, Dorchester. Having classes at UMass Boston allowed students to experience a college campus life.



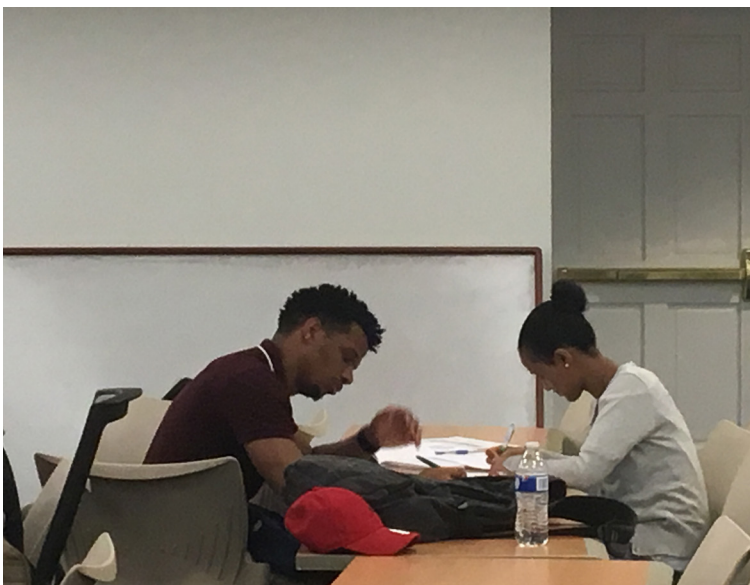
Lourdiana Cadet

“ This program help me to get closer to my dream, the way they teach us. The way they give us advices. ”

Content of the Program

Three experienced teachers in collaboration with the leadership team designed the class activities following the main goal and objectives of the program. As part of creating a collaborative learning environment the teachers had a number of group activities, work in pairs and role plays. In designing the classes, the teachers tried to connect and integrate English learning with acquiring and accelerating knowledge and skills in Science. The table below provides a more detailed description of the taught subjects.

Day	Subjects	Themes	Main Activities
Day 1	Civics Class	American Revolution & American Values	Small groups discussions, brainstorming
Day 2	English Proficiency Class	Basics of Oral Presentation and Reading in Academic Setting	Class discussions, ice breakers, debates
Day 3	Biology & Chemistry	Foundational chemistry (the periodic table, the structure of an atom, energy change, polarity, solubility, and the structure of a molecule, and bonding types) Cell Structure Structure of DNA/RNA	Brainstorming, work in small groups, lectures
Day 4	English Proficiency Class	Basics of Academic Writing & Listening	Work in small groups, discussions
Day 5	Algebra & Geometry	The Basic principles of points, angles, lines; Perpendicular and parallel concepts; Triangles, Linear Equations, Functions	Quizzes, work in small groups, lectures
Day 6	English Proficiency Class	Basics of Academic Writing and Listening	Small groups exercises, individual work
Day 7	Civics Class	American Constitution and American Governance System	Brainstorming, presentations, simulation
Day 8	College Preparation	Life in College	Work in small groups, brainstorming

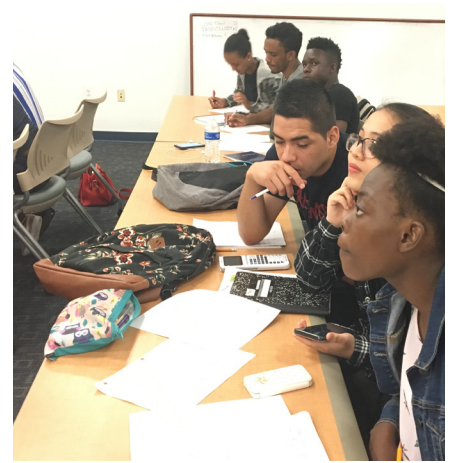
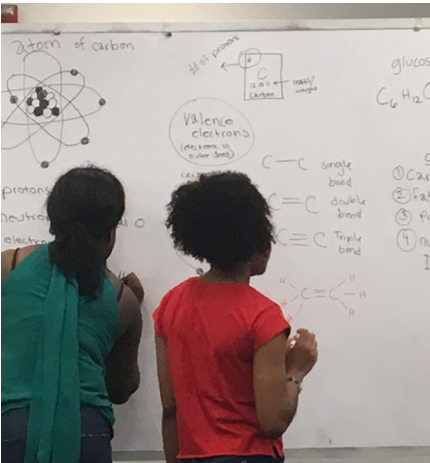
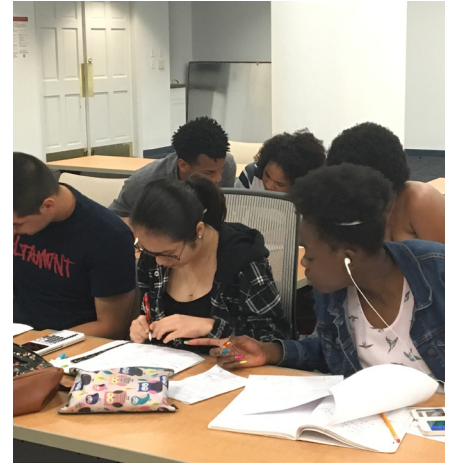
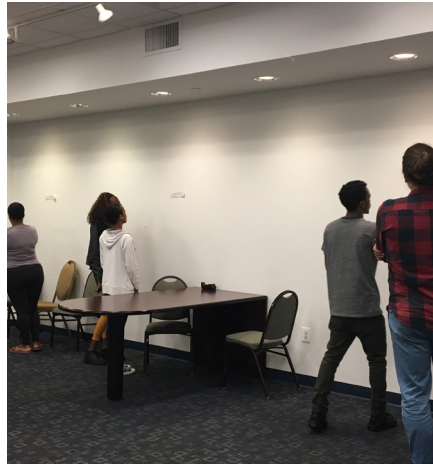


Ralph Charley Joseph

“

This program helped me a lot to think about my dream, like I can say this program boast my mind. The teachers are very nice, very helpful. I like them a lot, especially Hannah.

”



Results

1 The program has helped students with improving their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in the English language, thus contributing to decreasing the language barrier in a higher education setting.

2 The program has helped students improve the knowledge and understanding of the basic concepts of Algebra & Geometry, and Biology, and Chemistry, thus preparing them for potential careers in Nursing, IT and Engineering.

3 The program has contributed to increasing students' interests in continuing education.

4 The program has helped students more clearly articulate their college/career plans and outline their strengths and weaknesses, thus paving the way for making an action plan for future educational and professional success.

5 Through interactive program approach and engaging techniques, the program has contributed to the process of building a positive self-image, confidence and leadership skills among participants.

6 The program has contributed to the cultivation of habits of grit and perseverance.

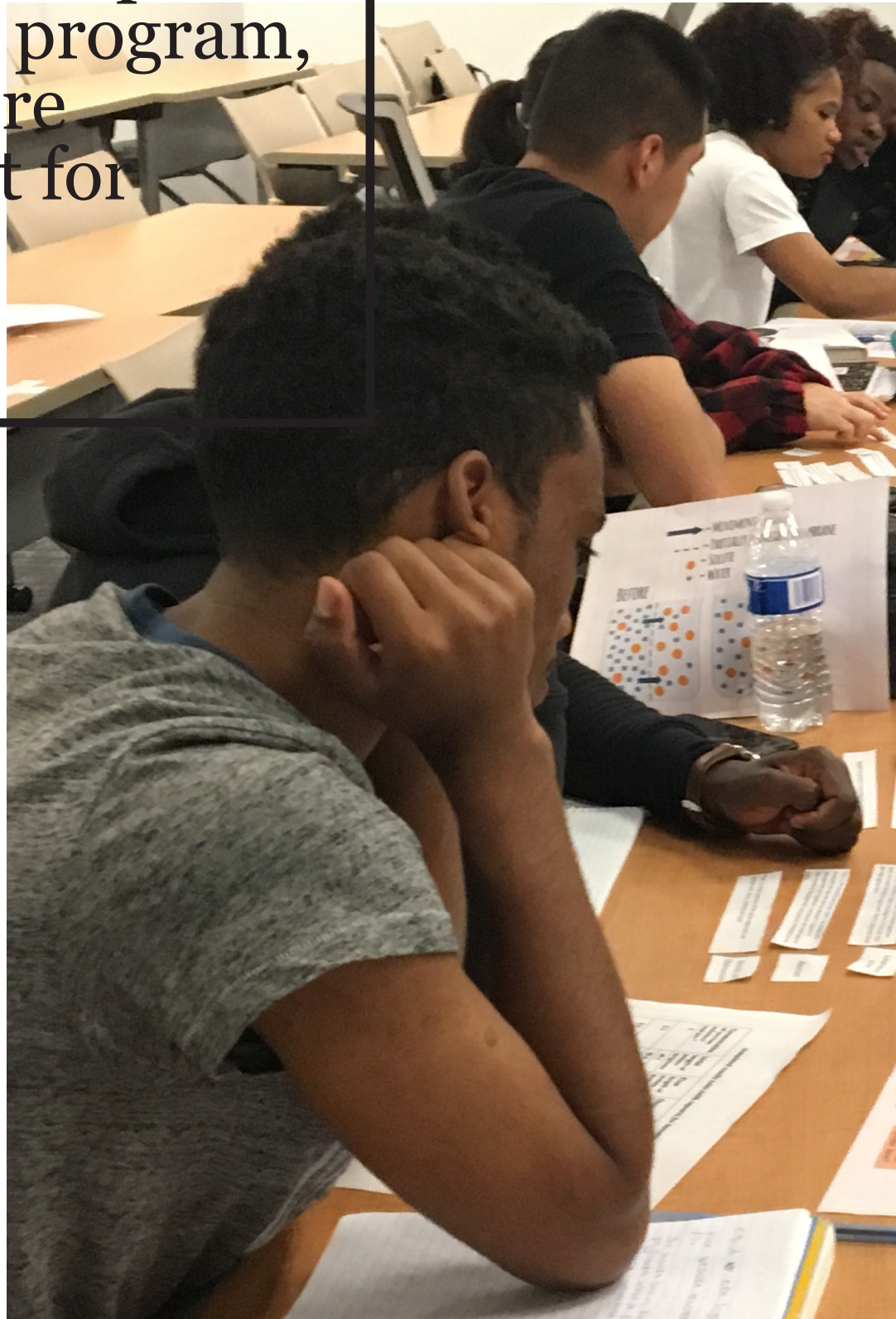
7 The tutoring classes has enabled participating students to receive a peer-to-peer guidance and training in the subjects that the students needed to improve.

With the help from the program, I feel more confident for college.



Fernando Guillen

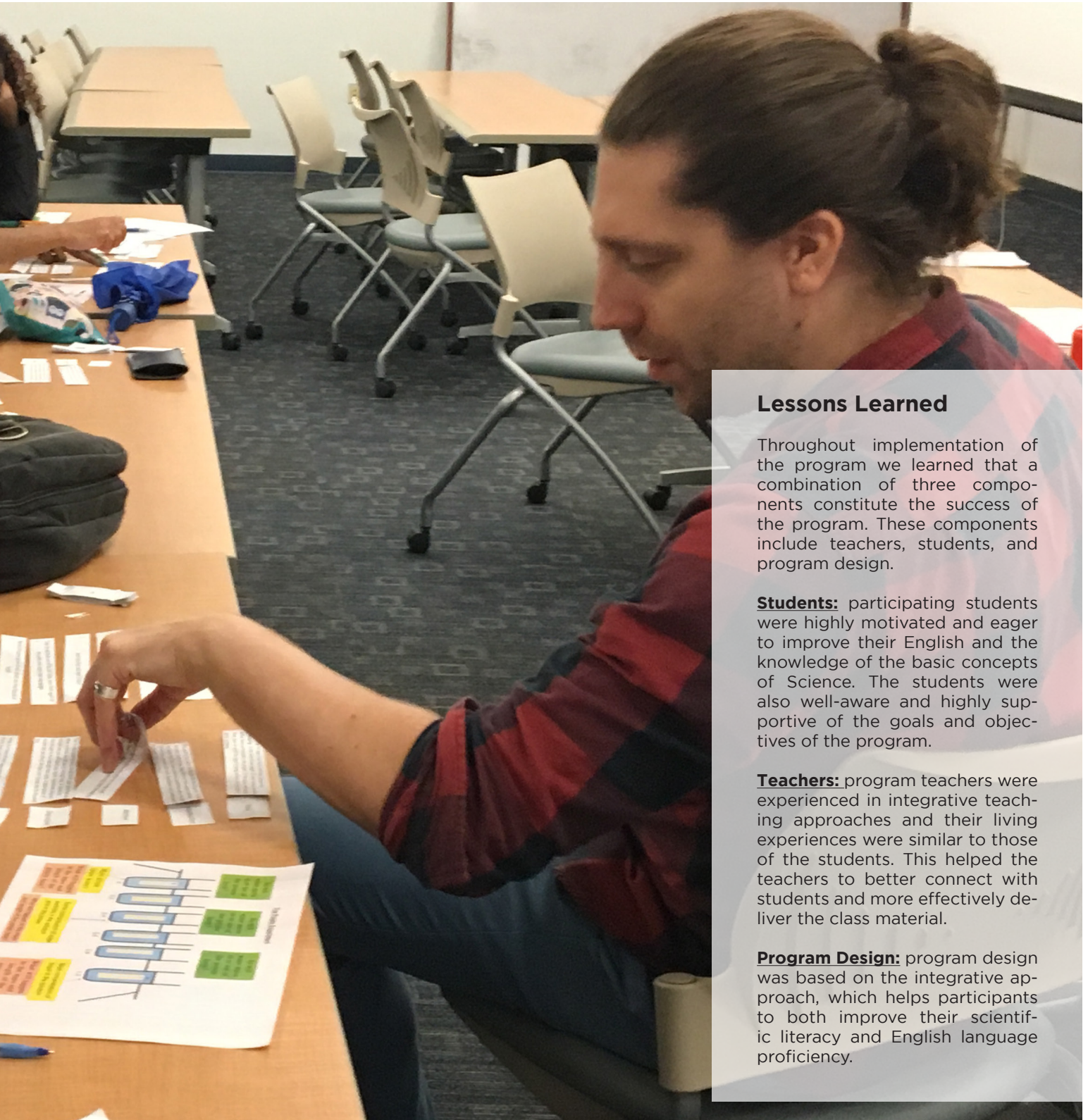
“ I would like to be a computer engineer because I like use computer. Also, I want to know how I can repair a computer. BATA helped me to get closer to dream because they showed me resources to learn more about the computer. They showed me skills about how to use and do homework in the computer. THANKS BATA. This program helped me to understand more English and some topics that I didn't know. THANKS. ”



Ruta Gebru



“ I want to become a nurse in my future. Program has so helping me to get more education. And this program helping so well that for college. For example, for this two week I know a lot of about college so I can use it. Also I feel more confident for college. ”



Lessons Learned

Throughout implementation of the program we learned that a combination of three components constitute the success of the program. These components include teachers, students, and program design.

Students: participating students were highly motivated and eager to improve their English and the knowledge of the basic concepts of Science. The students were also well-aware and highly supportive of the goals and objectives of the program.

Teachers: program teachers were experienced in integrative teaching approaches and their living experiences were similar to those of the students. This helped the teachers to better connect with students and more effectively deliver the class material.

Program Design: program design was based on the integrative approach, which helps participants to both improve their scientific literacy and English language proficiency.



Partners of the Program

The Academy at Harvard Square
The University of Massachusetts Boston
Boston Adult Technical Academy