

Summer science academy expands in Racine County

By Journal Times staff

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RACINE — Two Racine County schools will be among the sites around the state to host the 2009 4-H Gateway Academy, a science and technology summer camp for middle school students.

The program is being expanded from nine to 20 sites thanks to a \$270,000 grant from the Waukesha-based Kern Family Foundation, foundation President James Rahn announced Thursday.

Rahn made the announcement at Racine's Mitchell Middle School, 2701 Drexel Ave., one of the two Racine County sites. Burlington High School, 400 McCanna Parkway, also will serve as a site for the summer academy.

Also on hand to make the announcement was David Wilson, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin Colleges and University of Wisconsin-Extension, one of the partners in the program, which will now be available to an estimated 500 middle school students next summer.

The day camps inspire students going into grades seven, eight and nine to explore science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and consider career opportunities in these important fields.

"STEM disciplines will significantly form the foundation of the global economy in the future," Wilson said in a statement. "If Wisconsin is to remain a competitive force in the economy and in education, it must provide numerous and widespread opportunities for our young people to develop their science, technology, engineering and math interests and skills."

Additional partners for the 4-H Gateway Academy, a program of UW-Extension's Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development, include the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation and local school districts.

For more information about the 4-H Gateway Academy program, contact Debra Ivey, 4-H Project Lead the Way coordinator, UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension, debra.ivey@uwex.edu, (608) 935-0391 or (608) 574-0568.

Check the A+ Section in Tuesday's Journal Times for more on the 4-H Gateway Academy and a class at Mitchell Middle School that is getting students excited about science, technology, engineering and math.