

SUMMERLEAP

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ing, to bring kids on a college campus and have them engage in a college-level facility, we jumped at it."

The program has energized MCC staff and faculty and opened new opportunities for students to serve as paraprofessionals in the classrooms, Kress said. It also sends an important message that college is an attainable goal after high school.

"We want them to have a college-going culture," Kress said. "I have two young kids at home, and when I went to Horizons, I saw things my kids are doing all summer—reading and going to museums. They have the expectation that they'll go to college, and I think every household should have that expectation."

To reach its growth targets, the program will need an infusion of funding, Gabel said. It costs \$1 million in cash and close to \$580,000 in in-kind services—which


include the donated facilities—to run this year's program. To grow to 1,200 students in the next four years will require \$2.5 million in cash and \$1.2 million in in-kind donations.

So far the program has help from RCSD, which has given \$500 per student for the summer, cutting the program's share of the cost to roughly \$1,500 per student. The Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation has given another grant covering close to \$300 per student, and the Summer Leap program recently picked up funding from the United Way of Rochester Inc.

But much more will be needed as the program grows, and Gabel said officials are reaching out to individual and corporate donors as well as national foundations. Gabel said he is confident that once the success of the program gets out, the funding will follow.

"We've got a national success story here," he said.

netdougherty@rj.net / 585-546-6303



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