The 21st Century Opportunity

• Global economy requires a diverse workforce
• U.S. population becoming more diverse
• Huge potential for STEM workforce development among underrepresented minority groups
• Focus on Detroit
What is “The MEZ”?

- Safe, supportive, and collaborative workspace

- Home to 18 Detroit FIRST Robotics teams, summer camps, and additional programming for middle school students
What is “The MEZ?”

- Established in January 2010
- Collaboration between University of Michigan College of Engineering, Detroit Public Schools, EAA, Charter Schools, and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology)
Who is “The MEZ”? 

- 270 Detroit high school students and their families 
- 35 Detroit high school teachers 
- 32 UM undergraduate and graduate student mentors 
- 45 Detroit area professional engineers, UM alumni, and UM faculty
Goals

Propel the youth of Detroit to higher education and careers in the STEM field by:

• Exposing Detroit high school students to STEM through challenging, exciting, and hands-on experiences
• Leveraging the UM community and Detroit area professional engineers to provide training and mentoring
• Encouraging camaraderie and teamwork
• Providing tailored preparation information to students and their families about college opportunities, financial aid and scholarships, and the college application process

Outcomes

• Significant increase in participation in UM recruitment events among Detroit high school students
• 3 Teams qualified and competed in FIRST International Championships
• Increase in college-going and STEM interest among MEZ participants. For example:
  Of the 50 seniors at the MEZ in 2015,
  – All 50 graduated from high school
  – 48 reported planning to enroll in college; 2 will join the military
  – 60% reported planning to major in a STEM field